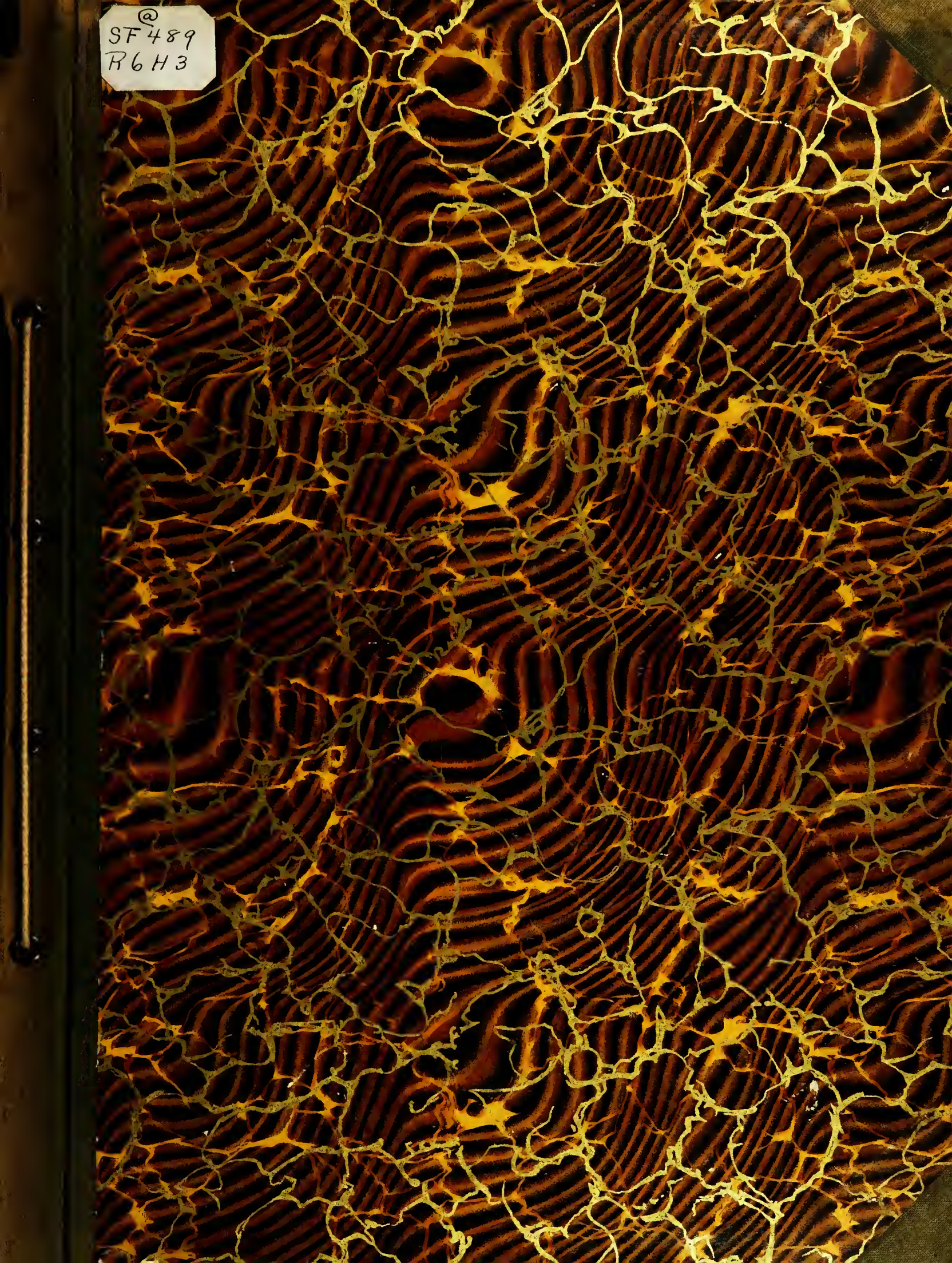
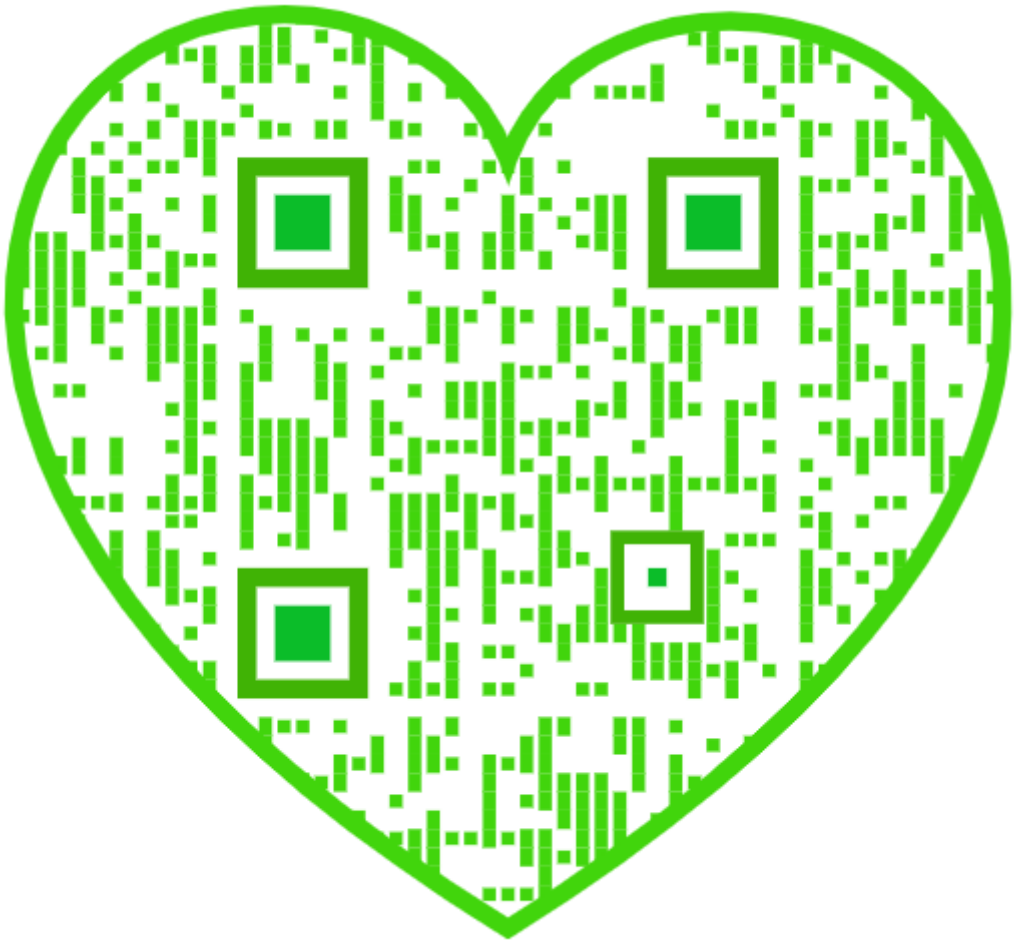
SF 489
R6H3





The original of this book is in
the Cornell University Library.

There are no known copyright restrictions in
the United States on the use of the text.

http://www.archive.org/details/cu31924003076910

Cornell University Library
SF 489.R6H3
Standard-bred Rhode Island reds, rose an
3 1924 003 076 910
mann

STANDARD-BRED

RHODE ISLAND REDS

ROSE AND SINGLE COMB

Their Practical Qualities; The Standard Requirements; How to Judge Them; How to Mate and Breed for Best Results

D. E. HALE, Editor

CONTRIBUTED TO BY THE BEST KNOWN AND MOST EXPERT BREEDERS AND JUDGES IN AMERICA

FULLY ILLUSTRATED

Text and Illustrations are Based on the Requirements of the 1910 Edition of the American Standard of Perfection

PRICE, SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

PUBLISHED JOINTLY BY
American Poultry Publishing Company, Buffalo, New York
AND
Reliable Poultry Journal Publishing Company, Quincy, Illinois

Copyright by
RELIABLE POULTRY JOURNAL PUBLISHING CO.
1911

@ 23492

THE RHODE ISLAND REDS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Standard R. I. Red Color and Markings - - - Frontispiece

Introductory - - Page 7

CHAPTER I

ORIGIN OF R. I. REDS

Origin of the R. I Reds - -	Dr. N. B. Aldrich -	Page 8
Development of the R. I. Reds	William C. Denny - -	10
Make-up of the R. I. Red - -	William S. Harris -	12
Origin of the Rose Comb R. I. Red - -	H. G. Dennis - -	13

CHAPTER II

HISTORY OF THE STANDARD BRED R. I. REDS

Color of the R. I. Reds -	J. H. Drevenstedt - -	14
The Ideal R. I. Red - - -	Geo. P. Coffin - -	16
R. I. Reds as a Standard Type - - - -	William C. Denny - -	18
History of Standard-Bred R. I. Reds -	D. E. Hale -	20

CHAPTER III

R. I. REDS AS EXHIBITION FOWLS

How to Produce Exhibition R. I. Reds -	D. W. Rich - - -	23
Breeding for Type and Color - - - -	Ira M. Crowther	25
Ten Years with S. C. R. I. Reds -	Oscar E. Miles	27
How to Produce Non-Fading R. I. Reds	C. L. Buschmann	28
Producing Exhibition Specimens	H. C. Lord -	30
The Color Question - - -	Kaufmann & Windheim -	33
The Proper Mating of R. I. Reds - -	Symposium	34
Popularity of R. I. Reds as Exhibition Fowl -	D. E. Hale - -	50
Preparing R. I. Reds for Exhibition -	D. E. Hale -	52

CHAPTER IV

JUDGING R. I. REDS

Judging R. I. Reds by Comparison	J. H. Drevenstedt -	54
Judging and Scoring R. I. Reds -	D. E. Hale -	57

CHAPTER V

R. I. REDS AS UTILITY FOWLS

R. I. Reds as Utility and Standard-Bred Fowls -	M. S. Gardner -	63
Utility Value of R. I. Reds - -	Lester Tompkins	67
Why We Prefer R. I. Reds - -	Irving A. Sibley	68
Breeding R. I. Reds for Egg Production	Geo. L. Andrews -	69
Why R. I. Reds are Popular -	Geo. L. Buell	70
Money Making R. I. Reds - - -	F. W. C. Almy - -	71
An Excellent Record for the First Year -	D. E. Hale -	72
R. I. Reds in Dixie Land -	Wm. L. Saunders -	73
R. I. Reds in England - - -	W. Rogersmith - -	74

CHAPTER VI

R. I. RED EGG FARMS

A Successful New England Egg Farm	P. T. Woods, M. D. -	76
Egg Farming in Rhode Island - -	P. T. Woods, M. D. -	79

Introductory

IF EVER a breed has been blest by being pushed by a loyal lot of fanciers and breeders, it is the Rhode Island Red. These same breeders tell us the breed itself has won its own popularity and overcome almost insurmountable obstacles in the way of prejudice, etc., by its grand utility qualities.

American breeders have in the past originated and perfected two grand breeds, viz., the Plymouth Rocks and the Wyandottes—both of them great favorites. To produce another breed that would possess the grand utility qualities of these two and also prove popular as a fancier's fowl seemed a herculean task but our New England fanciers and breeders, showing the indomitable spirit of their forefathers and being ably assisted by breeders in other parts of the country, went at the task knowing they had a fowl that would meet all the requirements of both the utility and the fancy in this country.

The Rhode Island Red, we might say, was unconsciously originated or made. The breeders of Rhode Island and especially those around Little Compton and some of the other little seaport towns, who are given credit for producing it, had no intention of producing a new breed of poultry. What they wanted was vigor with no thought of uniformity of shape or color and they soon noticed that the chickens sired by the "red roosters" were the ones having vigor and stamina. These "red roosters" were game cocks brought in by the incoming sailing vessels, mostly from Malay.

Not only were they the favorite breeders for the farmers, but their fighting characteristics soon enabled them to drive the other male birds to cover and it was merely a case of "the survival of the fittest."

It is our opinion that the R. I. Red females are uneven in color because no attention was given to breeding for color in the early days. The main effort was put forth to secure a "red rooster" and it seems reasonable to think this fact alone explains why the males of today not only hold their color better but also average better in other ways.

All Red breeders seem proud of the fact that the Red is the result of an out-cross. Whether color and type can be improved by continued out-crossing remains to be seen. We are under the impression that color can be improved only by what is known as line breeding, and when that is resorted to, great care must be taken not to sacrifice their strong point, vigor.

Since the Reds were admitted to the Standard by the American Poultry Association, their popularity as an exhibition or fancy fowl has rapidly increased. Great improvement in type and color has been made and with the many capable and experienced breeders who are handling them today, we see no reason why they should not continue to improve.

The history of the breed appearing herein was written after exhaustive research and after corresponding with the most prominent breeders, men who have known the Reds since boyhood. The quotations we have used are the opinions of the majority of Red breeders and we are therefore presenting to our readers a history of both the single and rose-comb varieties which is absolutely authentic and reliable, as far as we have been able to ascertain.

The Reds are known for their early maturity and egg-laying qualities, which are explained in the various articles throughout the book. The articles on mating and breeding were written by men who have made a study of them and have proved it by the birds they have produced.

The illustrations, furnished by artist Schilling, representing the perfect or Standard specimens, were selected by the R. I. Red Club of America as the club Standard and published in their club catalogue. By their kind permission they are reproduced herein. Mr. Schilling has been wonderfully successful in illustrating R. I. Reds of which from every side, is heard nothing but praise and we know that the illustrative work of this book cannot but please our many R. I. Red friends.

Judge Drevenstedt's article upon judging Reds by comparison is well worth careful study. Being one of the oldest and best known judges in America today his opinion is invaluable and he has brought out many strong points. His comparison record card is a great improvement over the old method of making notations upon the coop tags and judges who try this seldom go back to the old system.

If the reader will study the drawings of artist Schilling together with the defects and cuts set forth in the judging article, we think that the youngest amateur will be able to select his best exhibition specimens.

The popularity of the R. I. Reds as an exhibition fowl is shown in the article under that heading and in addition we will say that for the season of 1908-09, in competition for breed Standards, aside from the Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes which were out of the contest, having previously won their breed Standard, the Reds stood second on the list as a popular exhibition fowl. The Leghorns on exhibition were more numerous, but there are many different varieties of Leghorns, both rose and single comb, while the Reds have only two.

The various R. I. Red clubs are doing good work for the breed and we hope they may continue to work in harmony with each other using every fair means to place the Reds on the top round of the ladder of popularity.

D. E. HALE.

CHAPTER I

ORIGIN OF THE RHODE ISLAND REDS

THE RESULT OF CAREFUL RESEARCH GIVEN—AUTHORITIES SEEM TO AGREE THAT IT IS AN OUTCROSS BREED, WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR THE VIGOR OF THE BIRDS

DR. N. B. ALDRICH

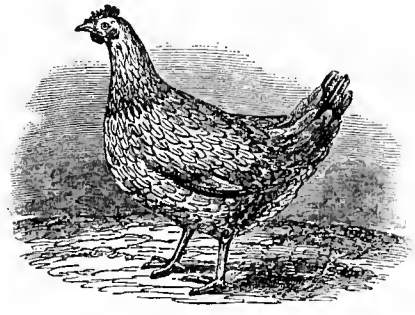
(Editor's Note:—After exhaustive research and study for authentic information regarding the history of the origin of R. I. Reds, we have decided the following article written in 1903 *for the club book, "Red Hen Tales" by the late Dr. N. B. Aldrich, Fall River, Mass., one of the most prominent Rhode Island Red breeders in America, is the most interesting and authetic account of the early history of the breed.—Ed.)*

I AM NOT one of those who is willing to say, "Never mind the origin of the 'Reds' or any other worthy variety of fowls." I have been breeding poultry for twenty odd years, and I am always interested in the origin of every breed.

Go back in history with me fifty years, and we find that, at that time, 1846-1850, different Asiatic breeds were introduced into this country, especially in the neighborhoods that were near the coast. One variety, the Shanghai fowl (yellow and white) was introduced, just after the Cochin China, and the two breeds for a time became confused, and "many farmers and poulterers declare, spite of feathers or no feathers (on their legs) that their fowls are Cochin Chinas or Shanghais, just as they please."

At this time, Bennett, in his poultry book, says: "There are but few, if any, bona fide Shanghai fowls now for sale." These Shanghai fowls (Simon pure) were heavily feathered on the legs. Not so with the Cochin China. At this time the Cochin Chinas were bred extensively in Southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Dr. Alfred Baylies, of Taunton, Mass., imported in July, 1846, specimens of the yellow Cochin Chinas. "The cockerels were generally red." These were not specimens of what were called the Royal Cochin Chinas, as bred by the Queen of England, but direct importations.

"The Royal Cochin Chinas were one-third larger." The Shanghais were heavily feathered in the legs; these imported Cochin Chinas lightly feathered, if at all. The ship Huntress, in May 1847, direct from Cochin China brought a pair of this variety of fowl, and Mr. Taylor, in speaking of them, says: The imported cock was a peculiar red and yellowish Dominique, and the hen a bay or reddish brown;" that the young stock varied "only in shade of color."



SHAKEBAG HEN.

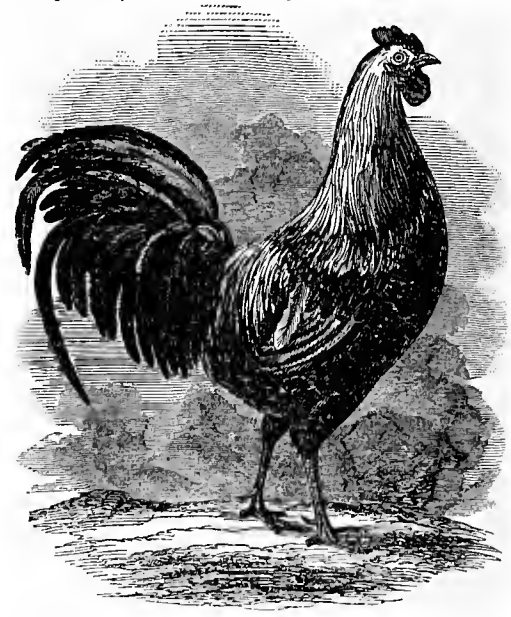
Reproduced from Dr. Bennett's Poultry Book 1852

This hen was one of a pair imported by Mr. John L. Tucker, Boston. In connecting them with the R. I. Red we note in Bennett's book as follows: "Mowbray thus writes of one in his possession, 'The only one I ever possessed was a red one, in 1784, weighing about ten pounds.'" This Shakebag hen certainly shows the oblong type seen in the Red of today.

Bennett says, "The legs of both sexes are of reddish yellow, sometimes, especially in the cocks, decidedly red—more so than in any other variety."

How many times I have called attention to the red pigment in a R. I. Red cock's legs.

So much, then, for the Red Cochin China cock of fifty years ago. The sea captains brought home just such specimens to Little Compton, R. I., but a little later came the great Malay fowl, with its knotty knob of a comb—a comb



THE SHAKEBAG FOWL.

Reproduced from Dr. Bennett's Poultry Book 1852

Whenever or wherever we read the history of the Reds we read of the Shakebag fowls. In referring to the above Dr. Bennett wrote: "This fowl has so many points of affinity with the Malay tribe, that there can be no impropriety in associating it with them, the plumage of the cock being extremely brilliant and gaudy. The fowl delineated here was imported by Mr. John L. Tucker of the Tremont House, Boston." Mr. Tucker is credited with being one of the originators of the Reds.

that even today occasionally is to be seen on the R. I. Reds. The Jersey Blues—Bucks County and Boodies—were inferior varieties of Malays. These Malays were spoken of as "serpent headed."

Their color was dark brown or reddish, streaked with yellow; some varieties of Malays ran more red than others. In Little Compton was introduced what was spoken of as the Red Malay.

The Red Cochin China cocks and the Red Malay cocks were selected, and crossed with the flocks of fowls in Little Compton, forty and fifty years ago, the same as today.

Later, before the Wyandotte fever, the R. C. Brown Leghorn was introduced into many flocks in this neighborhood. Even at the time of the introduction of the Leghorn

blood, the Red fowls were spoken of as R. I. Reds. In a certain section where the Leghorn blood was not used, today old settlers speak of their fowls as Red Malays; in this section ten years ago, the Reds were all single combs, whereas, ten or twelve miles further south were to be found rose combs in abundance.

Rhode Island Reds an Out-Cross Breed

The Rhode Island Reds have been subject to a good deal of criticism by fanciers of other breeds who claimed that the Reds had no breeding back of them, that they would not breed uniform, etc., and they have been called scrubs, barn-yard fowls, etc., etc.

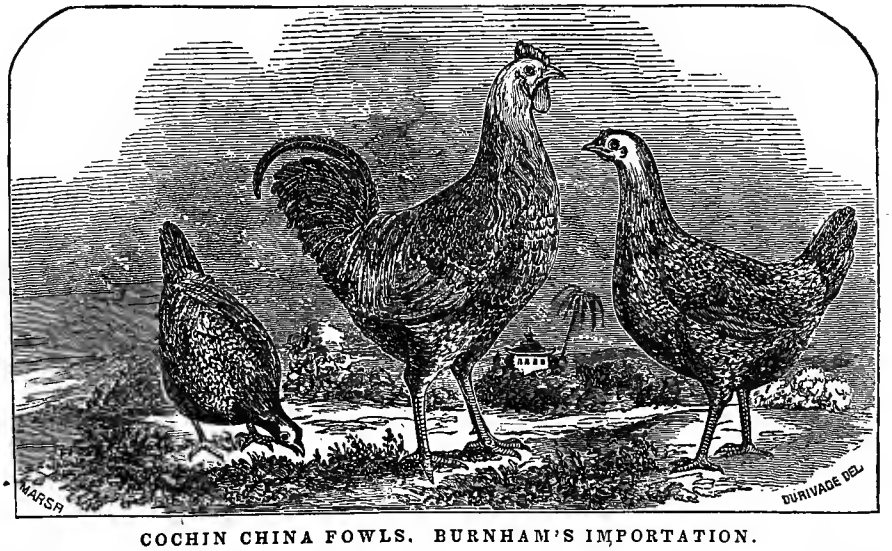
This breed derives its name Rhode Island Red from the male bird. The utility farmer of that section of Rhode Island, known as Little Compton, for nearly sixty years, has been selecting red males and leaving the females to be what they may. By this means, they have carefully out-bred this now famous breed.

Probably today there is not in the whole world another breed produced by fifty years of out-breeding. If it were only so, how much more vigor our several breeds would have. The Rhode Island Reds stand as the proof of what out-breeding will do. We fanciers do not live years enough to compose a breed deliberately, unless we inbreed, but it was not so with the original R. I. Red breeders, they knew the Red cock was the most vigorous and almost unconsciously they made a breed.

In reviewing this subject, one thing has struck me very forcibly, and that is that Red cocks were numerous in 1850; just think of the different breeds that produced them. At the first Boston Poultry Show held at the Public Gardens on November 10, 1849, Red Shanghais and Cochin Chinas, "the cockerels were generally red," were exhibited, as well as Plymouth Rocks, which were said to produce Red males. At this time, we also find Red Malays and Red Chittagongs. The Shakebag fowl was imported to this country by Mr. J. L. Tucker, of the Tremont House, Boston. Mr. Mowbray thus writes of one in his possession, "The only one I ever possessed was a red one in 1784, weighing about 10 pounds." I do not need to quote more to prove that Red cocks are nothing new, even though the world did lose sight of them, except isolated Little Compton, R. I. The red rooster of fifty years vanished to a small country village, but has now returned to the larger world. We all know how the old-time, in-bred chicken crank hates this new (old) out-bred breed. I am thankful that they are worthy of this narrow, mistaken, in-bred contempt. Little Compton, R. I., and Westport, Mass., are adjoining towns, lying to the southward of Fall River, Mass. One small vessel of 1827 to 1850, made about twenty-five trips annually between Westport and Providence, R. I. The number of eggs brought on each trip to Providence, R. I., averaged 400 dozen. The total brought from that port by this single vessel in the term mentioned, was 3,450,000, and the value of them was $35,500.

This gives you some idea of the value of the ancestors of the Reds in 1850, since which time the poulterers of this section have constantly been increasing their business and improving fowl and methods. Finally a few of us discovered the Reds, and the "Colony Plan" of raising fowls. We have tried to give the world the benefit of Litte Compton's breed and experience, and trust that the R. I. Red Club will prove as careful a guardian of the Reds as the whole-hearted farmers of Rhode Island did.

NOTE—These closing remarks seem like a bequest left to the breeders of this grand breed by the one who did as much, if not more, than any other to bring them before the public, and who was so suddenly taken away when the Reds were fast forging their way to the front strictly on their utility merits. EN.



COCHIN CHINA FOWLS. BURNHAM'S IMPORTATION.

Reproduced from "The Poultry Book" by Dr. J. C. Bennett, 1852

These fowls were imported by a Mr. Burnham in 1850. In writing of them in his book Dr. Bennett says: "This representation of Mr. Burnham's fowls is believed to be the only correct delineation of the species extant, and I flatter myself will henceforth be deemed the standard of comparison." As this breed was one of the ancestors of the R. I. Reds, breeders will no doubt readily recognize the oblong type of the Red athough they would hardly consider them the standard of todsy.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE RHODE ISLAND RED

AUTHENTIC HISTORY OF THIS POPULAR VARIETY—REDS PRODUCED BY FIFTY YEARS OF OUTBREEDING—THE RED MALAY FOWL A SOLID RED VARIETY—EARLY BREEDERS WHO HELPED MAKE THE REDS—NAMING THE BREED

WILLIAM C. DENNY

IN THE HISTORY of Standard-bred poultry, not a single breed or variety has met with such universal favor or has been bred as extensively in so short a period of time as the Rhode Island Red. It matters not whether the show be held in Portland, Me., or Portland, Oregon, you will find a good exhibit of "The Indians of the hen family" with their rich brilliant red plumage, set off with a lustrous deep black tail to attract the eye; if you are buying brown eggs in Boston, or dressed fowl in Seattle, you will hear of their vigor, winter laying and early maturity. You may then begin to wonder where this extraordinary breed came from and how it originated.

The district surrounding Little Compton, Newport County, R. I., and Fall River, Bristol County, Mass. (adjoining territory), is entitled to the credit for producing Rhode Island Reds. Practical poultry raising has been a profitable business with the thrifty farmers of this section for many years. With them the value of fowls was measured by the number of eggs they would produce and the returns they would bring when dressed and sent to market. Shape and color had little if any consideration, excepting that there was a decided preference for males with red plumage. This preference became so widespread and the use of red males so general, that without being conscious of it, these poultry keepers really made the Rhode Island Red.

The precise origin of the Rhode Island Red will always remain more or less obscure. It will never be known exactly what breeds were responsible for its production, as for forty years previous to its being recognized as a distinct breed, it was a race of fowls produced by poultry farmers who had no definite ideas in regard to breeding for form or feather. The Red Shanghais, Cochin Chinas, Red Chittagongs, Black Breasted Red Malays and Red Malay or Wild Indian Fowl have in turn been credited with being instrumental in producing this breed, but it is quite certain that none of these alone is entitled to this distinction. It is doubtful if the names of these different breeds were correctly applied by the pioneer poultry keepers who were breeding poultry solely for eggs and meat. The names Cochin China and Malay being better known, were in all likelihood favored and received credit that in many instances belonged to the Shanghais and Chittagongs. It is also likely, beyond doubt, that at least two distinct breeds were known as Malays.

The Red Malay Fowl

The Red Malay as it was called by many was also known as the Malay or Wild Indian fowl. It could not be said that this was a variety of, or that it was in any way related to, the breed now recognized as Black Breasted Red Malay Games. Recently Dr. P. T. Woods saw and photographed a specimen of this variety (the Red Malay) in the museum of the Peabody Academy of Science, East India Marine Hall, Salem, Mass. This specimen was brought alive to this country from Malay about the year 1846 by Captain Richard Wheatland. The illustration made from photos of this specimen proves that the Red Malay, or Wild Indian fowl, did exist and also that it was a distinct breed which could not possibly be confused with any other. This specimen had a short strong neck, a rather long slender body with a round full breast, a medium sized, well furnished tail, rather long thighs and shanks, a short round head with a cruel expression and a small pea comb. In color it was a rich red including solid red tail and wings, excepting the first two primary feathers on one wing which were part white. Under-color was slate and in some sections almost black.

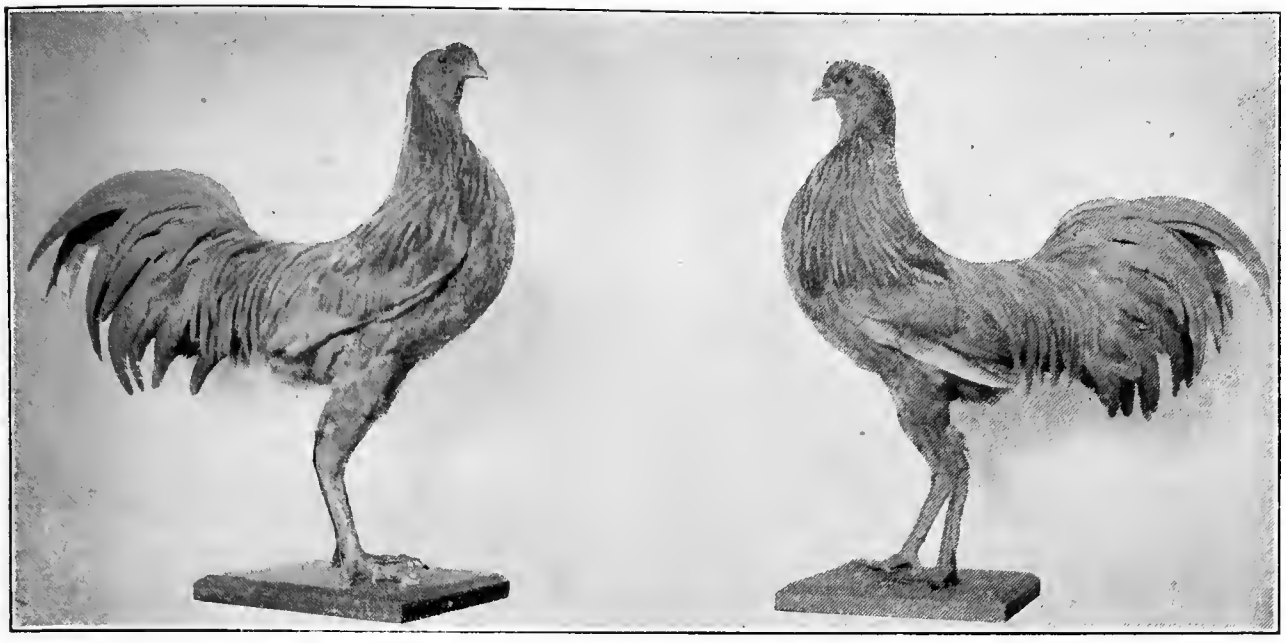
This Red Malay, in all probability, was also known as the Buff Malay and was the breed that was largely responsible for fixing the color in Rhode Island Reds. It is generally conceded, however, that each one of the above five named breeds was a factor in making the Reds. Evidence of this is found in many instances and includes the fact that time after time the three styles of combs have been found in flocks that have been kept for egg production or as market fowl, the single comb showing its ancestry principally in the Cochin China, the rose comb in the Black Breasted Red Malay and the pea comb in the Chittagong and Wild Indian. Strong evidence of the use of Malay blood is also indicated in the wheaten color found in many Rhode Island Red females, even down to the present time. For a long time, evidence of the Cochin China was found in Rhode Island Red females having pronounced cushions and loose Cochin feathering.

Little Evidence of Leghorn Blood

There is very little evidence that Brown Leghorns were largely used in producing Rhode Island Reds, excepting that there were occasional flocks with considerable Leghorn blood where red males were introduced. The late Dr. Aldrich, after careful personal investigation, in his notes on the origin of the Reds which were published in the Rhode Island Experiment Station report for 1901 writes:

"In the Tiverton country the Reds were not rose comb, but single, and were called Malays more often than they were called Rhode Island Reds. These Reds had no suggestion of Leghorn blood in them. The rose comb Rhode Island Reds now in Tiverton were obtained from Little Compton. At Westport (head of river) the Reds looked 'Leghorny.' There was, no doubt, some rose comb Leghorn blood in some of the flocks. At Central Village, the Rhode Island Reds were rose and single comb, and were bred in large numbers by Mr. Booth and Mr. Kirby (both of whom are now dead) and others, between central Village, Hick's Bridge and Westport Point. At Little Compton there were rose and single comb Rhode Island Reds. I have no doubt the rose comb came from the rose comb Shanghai cock rather than from any Wyandotte or rose comb Leghorn blood, although the latter could occasionally be seen quite plainly. Very little Wyandotte blood could be found, introduced from cockerels raised by Fred Bowen of Fall River, but the rose comb, I am sure, antedated any introduction of Wyandotte or Leghorn blood, that is, in the neighborhood of Little Compton (south shore)."

Rhode Island Reds were originally known as the "William Tripp" or "John Macomber" fowl. On the subject Captain Benjamin E. Tripp of New Bedford, son of William Tripp, in a letter under date of January 17, 1900, also published in the Rhode Island Experiment Station report for 1901 writes:



RED MALAY GAME FOWL BROUGHT TO MASSACHUSETTS FROM MALAY ABOUT 1846

Reproduced from photos by Dr. P. T. Woods. Two views of a beautifully mounted specimen of Malay fowl now preserved in the museum of the Peabody Academy of Science, East India Marine Hall, Salem, Mass. This bird has a pea comb, yellow legs and plumage which is a rich uniform red throughout with the exception of one wing, which shows white in the primaries. The under-color ranges from light to dark slate (almost black) in different sections. This bird was brought from Malay about the year 1846 by Capt. Richard Wheatland and was bred in Salem, Mass., about three years by George Wheatland, Jr. Further particulars concerning this bird will be found in the accompanying article by Mr. Denny.

"To begin with, as far back as 1854 John Macomber, of Westport (living near what is now called Central Village, but then called Westport townhouse) and my father, William Tripp, both of them, ran teams to New Bedford as marketmen. They took the matter in hand to see if they could not, by crossing different strains of fowls, get better layers than the fowls in the surrounding country and also better looking poultry for the market. The result of their trials was the production of the so-called Rhode Island Reds of today. Previous to that they were called the 'John Macomber' or the 'Tripp' fowls."

Naming the Breed

Captain Tripp credits Isaac C. Wilbour of Little Compton as being entitled to the honor of having named Rhode Island Reds, but does not mention the year. On the same subject William P. Shepard, South Swansea, Mass., who for several years was an officer of the Southern Massachusetts Poultry Association has stated in a letter, that in 1879 or 1880 a Mr. Jenny who was one of the directors of the same association presented some fine birds for entry and when asked what they were called, he replied that they had no name. It was suggested that he give them one. He is credited with the statement, "Well suppose we call them Rhode Island Reds." Later Dr. Aldrich advocated the name Golden Buffs and they were exhibited by him under that name at an exhibition of the Rhode Island Poultry Association, December 16, 1891, and later the same winter he exhibited a pen under the same name at Philadelphia. The name Rhode Island Reds however seemed to stick and be the one to meet with popular favor. In 1895 Richard V. Browning of Natick, Mass., made an exhibit under the name Rhode Island Reds at a show held by the Rhode Island Poultry Association. This is the first record that can be traced of their having been exhibited under the name of Rhode Island Reds. The late Roland G. Buffinton was the first one to advertise rose comb Rhode Island Red eggs and stock and the second to advertise single combs.

Fifty Years of Outbreeding

The individual types of all component breeds were lost in the consistent outcrossing that was continued by those who were keeping these fowls. Of this system of breeding that has produced the Rhode Island Red the late Dr. Aldrich has written:

"The utility farmer of that section of Rhode Island known as Little Compton, for nearly sixty years had been selecting red males and leaving the females to be what they may. By this means they have now carefully outbred this now famous breed. Probably today there is not in the whole world another breed of fowl produced by fifty years of outbreeding. If it were so, how much more vigor our several breeds would have. The Rhode Island Reds stand as the only proof of what outbreeding will do. We fanciers do not live long enough to compose a breed deliberately, unless we inbreed, but it was not so with the original Rhode Island Red breeders. They knew the red cock was the most vigorous and almost unconsciously they made a breed."

It should be noted that while Dr. Aldrich says that red males have been used by farmers for breeding purposes in their utility poultry for sixty years, he does not claim that they are entitled to consideration as a breed for so long a time. On this subject Lester Tompkins, the noted breeder of this breed, writes:

"For nearly forty years I have known the Rhode Island Reds in Little Compton, their original home. In speaking of the new breed, or as I know them, the new old breed, I am carried back to my boyhood days. This was about the only fowl we saw on the farms in our vicinity, which at that time and today produces more poultry than any place of its size to be found."

The system of out-breeding as referred to by Dr. Aldrich was no other than the practice of changing males which was customary among the early poultry raisers, who, it seems were chiefly concerned in breeding for vigor and vitality and who believed in the fallacy that it was necessary to introduce new blood or unrelated stock to secure it. It would appear that a demand was created for red males and that enterprising sea captains, sailing to the Orient, brought home with them some of the native fowls of China, India and the Malay Islands, for which they found ready sale. Whenever one of these males from over the sea was secured, the entire neighborhood was interested and that year the owner would find a demand for all the cockerels he could raise.

MAKE-UP OF THE RHODE ISLAND REDS

OBSERVATIONS OF AN EXPERIENCED BREEDER WHO COMBINES PRACTICAL EGG FARM VALUES WITH SHOW ROOM QUALITY IN THE POPULAR REDS

WILLIAM S. HARRIS

ABOUT 1893 when it began to get noised about that a certain new-old breed of fowls, the Rhode Island Red, had features that were worthy of investigation owing to their heavy laying qualities, large brown eggs, hardiness, etc., I became sufficiently interested to investigate.

Up to that time I had been trying first one and another of the so-called "all around" practical breeds and not being rooted in any old ruts I immediately began to study into the merits of the Reds then common on farms in my part of Massachusetts and in nearby Rhode Island, and I bred them

FIRST PRIZE R·C·RED HEN, PITTSBURG 1910.
BRED AND OWNED BY
F·L·POULTRY FARM VERONA PA·

side by side with the other breeds I was then keeping. The result was that I abandoned my other varieties and for the last twelve years have been breeding Rhode Island Reds exclusively, establishing a substantial egg farm with 1500 Reds and catering to the best hotel trade in Boston.

In regard to the make-up of the Rhode Island Reds, it seems to me that there is very little to add to what has already been said on this subject but as my experience has been asked I will give it for what it is worth and will try to tell what I know of the ever-interesting Rhode Island Reds.

A breeder who has bred thousands of Rhode Island Reds each year for a dozen years or more has little, if any, doubt of their origin, for during the first few years of breeding them it was a common occurence for the different breed types to crop out. Occasionally one would come that would be a perfect specimen of the Dorking in shape, with flesh-colored legs, (English breed); then again one of the Hamburg type, (Dutch breed). The Leghorn shape often appeared (Mediterranean breed), again the Games' shape would frequently show as also the Cochin (Asiatic breed) and last of all the form of the Plymouth Rock appeared. (American Class).

During all these years I have never noticed any evidence of Polish or French blood in the Reds. Shape is what determines the breed. So it is a comparatively easy matter for an observing breeder to find out what is back of a breed. From a breeder's view-point the evidence goes to show that the R. I. Reds are made up of a happy combination of blood and mingling of types from the following breeds: Plymouth Rocks, Dorkings, Hamburgs, Leghorns, Games and Cochins. This combination has given the Reds a rugged constitution. The best of what is in the breeds named has been retained, the objectionable features have been nearly eradicated. It is seldom now, after all these years of systematic and careful breeding that any of the different breed types appear. Crossing widely different strains or the introduction of new blood from a very strong strain would probably result in throwing a few with characteristics of the early ancestors of the variety.

Selection in breeding, and understanding and application of the Standard to the Reds have given us a fowl that is not exceeded by any in beauty and profitability and have given us birds of ideal shape.

I am opposed to any change in the Standard for Reds except to have ticking in hackle of both male and female. I would also prefer a 5½ pound pullet. Other changes would cause too many show-room birds. For instance if the Standard allowed smut in under-color the show-room would be flooded with show birds, and the interest in Reds would soon die out.

The difficulty in getting good ones is what keeps up the interest in any variety and scarcity is what makes the high prices. Any breed that throws any great percentage of really good ones is short-lived.

ORIGIN OF THE ROSE COMB RHODE ISLAND REDS

AN OLD-TIME BREEDER HAS SATISFIED HIMSELF THAT THE RED ROSE COMB FOWL BROUGHT FROM JAVA WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN PRODUCING THE ROSE COMB OF THE R. I. RED

H. G. DENNIS

(Note:—As there has been considerable dispute and many theories have been advanced as to the origin of the rose comb variety we believe the following, taken from "Red Hen Tales" of 1908, entitled to a place in this historic account. The arguments set forth by Mr. Dennis that the rose combs originated from the red Javas are quite plausible and we present them herewith that the breeder may have all the historic facts from which to draw his own conclusion.—Ed.

HAVING seen a number of articles in agricultural and poultry journals on the origin of the Rhode Island Reds, and being positive in my belief that I know where the progenitors of the rose comb variety came from, with your permission will say:

Forty-five years ago, to my knowledge, there could be found on the incoming whaleships, and in the yards of the sailor boarding houses, and those of the Portuguese and other foreign residents of that part of New Bedford bordering on the water front known as Fayal, as well as on a number of farms within a radius of ten miles of the city, many specimens of Red Rose Comb fowl that were brought from Java, and the adjacent islands, by the whaleships, and called by the sailors Red Javas.

The Red Javas would come as near, or nearer, to meeting the requirements of the Rhode Island Red Standard than do the best Reds today. In plumage they would excel the present day Reds. They were an even colored, rich, dark red of a shade difficult to describe. Both male and female were dark. The males had an elegant, glossy plumage, and what was called in those days a bottle green tail. The females were more subdued in color and had a black tail. They had combs of a fine slant, and of medium width, terminating with a spike, comb full and with prominent serrations, legs of reddish yellow and medium length.

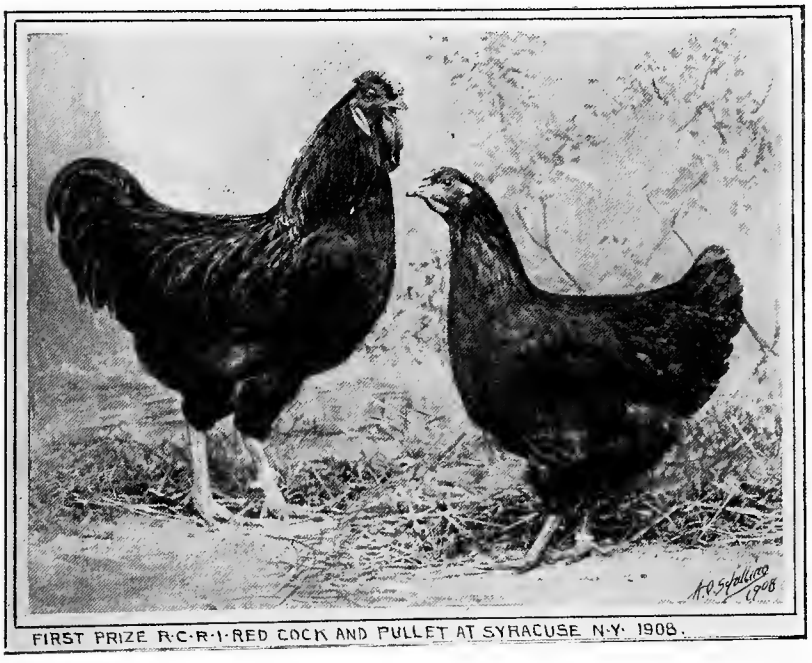
In conformation they were very long on the keel and straight on the back. They were very active and great foragers and layers. In color there were three varieties of Javas—red, white and black, all of the same conformation and characteristics.

That the Javas were a true or distinct breed is my belief, as many bantams, miniature productions of the large variety, were to be found in the places that I have before named.

In company with some schoolmates we had at one time about twenty-five specimens of the Red Javas, about two-thirds of them males. They were obtained in part from the ships, others were bought from the foreign residents along the water front. We kept them in a barn in the center of the city. They soon caused a protest from the neighbors, and we had to dispose of most of the males. They were sold to farmers who brought produce to the city from Little Compton, Adamsville, Westport, Dartmouth, and to farmers of the towns to the north and east of New Bedford.

As many of the officers of the ships came from the towns above named and westerly along the coast to New London, and vessels sailed from Westport Point and New London, it is fair to presume that some of the Javas found their way to those sections through that channel.

I have kept the Reds many years and would not keep any other breed. That the Red Javas were the progenitors as a whole, or in part, of the Rose Comb Reds of today is my belief, and there is no theory that can be advanced or arguments brought forth, that would have any effect on my version of the matter.



FIRST PRIZE R·C·R·I·RED COCK AND PULLET AT SYRACUSE N·Y· 1908.

Bred by Ellenwood Farm. Artist Schilling said of them. "In type they are excellent models having that peculiar carriage and style which characterizes a true Rhode Island Red.

CHAPTER II

COLOR OF RHODE ISLAND REDS

DARK RED OF MALAY MALE FITS COLOR DESCRIPTION OF R. I. RED MALE—RICH SALMON RED UNDER COLOR PREFERRED—SHADES OF BROWN NOT DESIRABLE—WHITE A SERIOUS DEFECT

J. H. DREVENSTEDT

COLORS cannot be satisfactorily described in words. Most persons can tell the difference between red, blue, green, yellow, black and white, but few persons will be found who will agree on the correct terms for shades or variations of these primary or basic colors. Paint manufacturers print colored charts and label the almost endless number of shades of red, blue, green and yellow to assist the public in the selection of the color it desires for house or other painting.

Red is the most difficult of all to define or describe, as the shades or tints that can be made from the carmine and vermillion bases range from a dainty pink and light orange to dark maroon and deep salmon.

R·C·R·I· RED PULLET FROM FIRST PRIZE PEN AT KANSAS CITY & CLEVELAND SHOWS 1909 Bred & Owned By RIDGE VIEW FARM WILLOUGHBY O.

Real or positive red color in domesticated races of fowl is found only in the comb, wattles, ear-lobes, eyes and in the soft skin of the shanks; pure yellow is found only in the skin, shanks and toes; neither red nor yellow appears in the plumage as positve color properties. What appears to be red is simply a blend of red, black and white, the two latter deepening or lightening the red producing shades ranging from a very dark brown mahogany or chestnut to a lemon or gold. Ruby red, garnet red and cherry red cannot be applied to shades of color found in the plumage of fowls, but if breeders like such terms and wish to use them, the comb, wattles, ear-lobes and eyes will be found a fairly safe field for their imagination.

Among the red pigments found in the mineral and vegetable worlds, venetian red on iron-oxide, perhaps, comes closest to the red found in the plumage of domesticated fowls, for the real bright and unmistakable reds of the artist and painter, these exist only in the plumage of cage birds and wild fowl.

The only red we ever saw on a Rhode Island Red that could be identified as a shade of carmine was the peculiar pinkish red produced by staining feathers with a permanganate of potash solution. Although a most bungling job of faking, it served as an object lesson in proving unmistakably the utter futility of using mineral or vegetable reds to match the red shades found in the plumage of Rhode Island Reds or of any other breed where red is a Standard requirement.

Bearing this in mind, we can readily understand the difficulty in attempting to define the color of plumage of fowls with a painter's color chart as a guide.

It was perhaps, for this reason that Rhode Island Red breeders, when making their Standard for Reds, avoided as much as possible color terms that were foreign to the shade of red found in the plumage. So they "went it light" and stood pat on just the word "red" with "lighter" and "rich brilliant" as qualifying the shades of red found in the surface color and "salmon" as the proper definition of the undercolor. This color description is certainly flexible enough to suit all judges.

Three Shades of Red in Fowls

There are three shades of red in fowls nearly all fanciers are familiar with, namely: The very light orange red of the modern Black Red Game, the brilliant bright red of the Partridge Cochin and the dark red of the Malay. The latter shade of color was also found in the Black-Red Games of the olden times before the craze for the so-called lemon-red hackles and saddles took possession of the Game fanciers. This dark red of a fine Malay male should fit the description of the color of a Rhode Island Red male, especially if the claim made by some investigators that the Reds owe their color properties to the Malay is correct.

The ideal Rhode Island Red male in color is one even shade of red from head to juncture of back with tail, on the wing-bows and wing-coverts, with breast and body to match. Such a specimen may be a *rara avis*, but can be closely approximated by careful selection in mating. The neck, back and saddle hangers in some of our best modern Reds often blend harmoniously, with but slight variations, in the color of wing-bows the latter being a shade darker, the breast often corresponding in color with the latter minus the luster found in the upper sections. The undercolor in such specimens is a rich salmon red and if the tail and wing flights show strong black coloration we are apt to find some of the bluish-slate in the undercolor of the back, which from a

breeding standpoint, is what might be termed a "desirable defect." Some of the judges treat this alleged defect with unnecessary severity, often passing or placing back when selecting or judging Reds, a first class cock or cockerel in surface color, because of this slate undercolor.

White, however, is a very serious defect in either buff or red fowls and difficult to breed out. Black is often a color reservoir that helps tone up the fading color by feeding with black pigment, but not in allopathic doses.

The black in Rhode Island Reds should be sound, not penciled or peppered in any feather, but sharply defined. The Rhode Island Red is a solid red fowl with black tail and flight markings.

Good Study in Color Markings

A good study in color markings is a strictly Standard exhibition Golden Penciled Hamburg male. The color of such is briefly described in the English Standard as: "Neck, hackle, back, saddle, shoulders and wing-bows, breast and under-parts, a bright red bay; tail, black tinged with green, sickle feathers and tail coverts a rich transparent green surface color on black foundation and laced all around with gold." This gives the reader a fair idea of the color of the specimen.

By substituting the desired shade of red for the bright red bay of the Hamburg—a beautiful color by the way—and omitting the gold lacing of the sickles and tail coverts, we will describe the general color appearance so the average mind can readily grasp it.

With red and black clearly defined in sections where such are found, and a sound even red surface color in every other section, rich undercolor and sound red quills will follow. Males with dark brown, chestnut or chocolate colored backs, wing-bows and lesser sickles, and light red hackles and saddle hangers, still seen in specimens exhibited at shows, are not desirable for either exhibition or breeding purposes.

The aim of the breeders is evenness of surface color, and the day is near at hand when the variegated shades of color found in Red males will be the exception and not the rule.

Good Color in Females Rarely Found

Improvement in the color of females has not been marked as in the males. It is true, however, that pullets in the past few years have become more even in color and more plentiful, but with adult females, the number of two year old hens that are sound in color is still small.

Hens, that as pullets were rich in surface color, with feathers free from shafting, become uneven, mealy and often shafty in the color of the feathers of the back, wing-bows and breast; the black in the tail and flights loses solidity, becoming faded and peppery. This loss of red and black color is a most serious problem, one that will take very careful study and proper selection of breeding stock to solve.

Standard Color Description Not Satisfactory

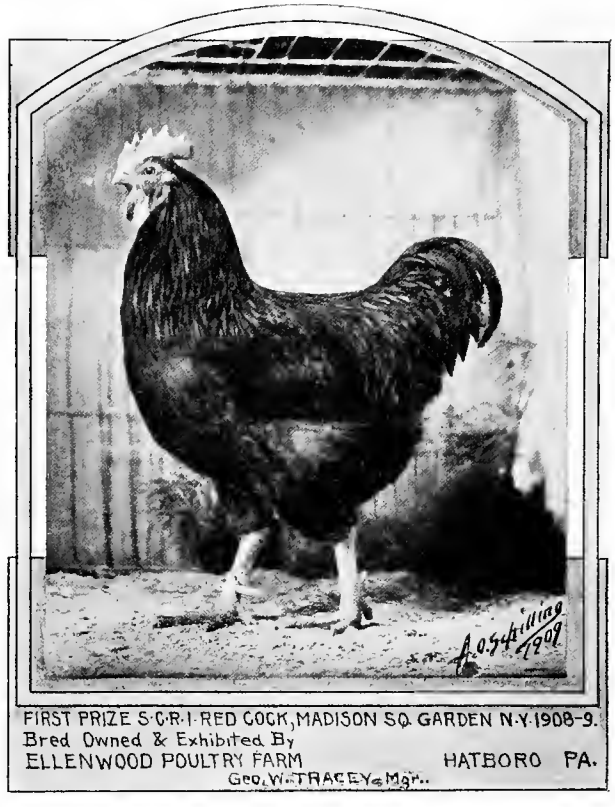
The Standard description of color, especially in females, has been severely criticised as faulty, but the critics offer nothing better to take its place. However, the Rhode Island Red Club of America made an attempt to improve the color description of Reds in the 1910 Standard.

The latter defines the color of plumage sections of the female as follows: "Neck, red. The tips of the lower hackle feathers should have a black ticking, not a heavy lacing; Wings—Primaries lower web, black, upper web, red; Secondaries—Lower web, red, upper web, black; flight coverts black; wing-bows and coverts, red; Tail—Black, or greenish-black; Plumage—General surface lighter and more even than in the male, free from shafting or mealy appearance. Except where black is specified the color is a rich even shade of bright red, not as brilliant in luster as the male. The under-color and quills of the feathers should be red or salmon. Black or white in the under-color of any section is undesirable. Other things being equal, the specimen having the richest under-color shall receive the award."

The color of the neck and wing-bows and wing-coverts is simply red, no shade of the latter being given. It might be a medium, light or dark shade of red or the shade a judge just happens to fancy, although under "plumage," the shade of red of the general surface color is described as being lighter and more even than in the male, which would apply to the neck and wing sections if even color is the ideal.

The black ticking at the lower ends of the neck or hackle feathers does not appeal strongly to fanciers as ticking is usually looked upon as undesirable property. But there must be some black in the hackle and lacking a better word "ticking" was used.

The rich reddish bay surface color of the Golden Penciled Hamburg male comes very close to being the color of a Rhode Island Red female.


FIRST PRIZE S.C.R.I. RED COCK, MADISON SQ. GARDEN N.Y. 1908-9.
Bred Owned & Exhibited By
ELLENWOOD POULTRY FARM HATBORO PA.
Geo. W. TRACEY, Mgr.

Undesirable Colors

As to black or white in the under-color being undesirable there can be no question, that positive black is rarely if ever found, but slate or bluish-gray color will be found not infrequently in the under-color of the back of females where one is strong in surface color and having solid black tails and strong black markings in primaries, secondaries and flight coverts. This slate in under-color, however, is a minor defect, when compared with white. The latter is one of the most serious and dangerous defects the breeder of Rhode Island Reds has to contend with. With females, as in males, a little surplus of black pigment can do no harm, but white in any part of the plumage, on surface or under, should be bred out as quickly as possible by very close culling of breeders, selecting only such females and males as show very little or no white in any part of the plumage. By breeding from fowls that are red, with careful selection of both sire and dam, the progeny will improve in evenness of surface color and the black markings in tail and wings will increase in soundness of color also.

THE IDEAL RHODE ISLAND RED

EX-SECRETARY OF THE RHODE ISLAND RED CLUB OF AMERICA GIVES A SHORT HISTORY OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE STANDARD FOR THIS BREED—UTILITY HAS BEEN THE FIRST CONSIDERATION OF THE BEST BREEDERS—THE CLUB IDEALS—PROPER COLOR CAN BE TAUGHT BEST BY OBJECT LESSONS—DOUBLE MATING UNNECESSARY BECAUSE THE HIGHEST SCORING BIRDS CAN BE PRODUCED BY SINGLE MATING—IN STRIVING FOR PERFECTION OF SHAPE AND COLOR THE VITAL QUALITIES WHICH ARE HARDINESS, VIGOR AND PROLIFICACY, MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN

GEO. P. COFFIN

IN THE production of birds of high quality, the true fancier must ever have in mind the ideal of perfection toward which he should continually direct his efforts as a breeder.

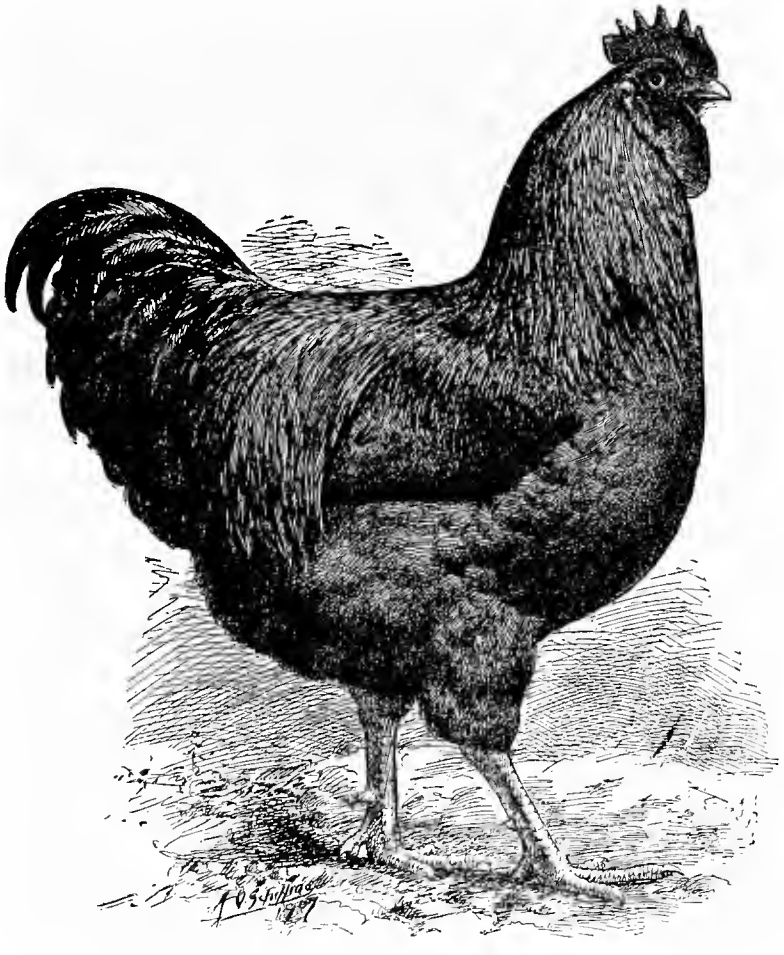
Ever since the Rhode Island Red began to attract the attention of fanciers the question of the correct or "standard" type and color has been under discussion. The earlier Standards for the breed did not give the detailed description of color for each section that the American Standard of Perfection does.

In December, 1898, the "Rhode Island Red Club of America" held their first meeting. The members then agreed that utility should be the first consideration and that brilliancy of color and length of keel indicate vigor and practical value as well as beauty.

In January, 1900, at the club meeting in Boston there was a full and free discussion regarding a standard, and a great diversity of opinion was found to exist as to what was the most desirable color. The "all red bird," the male with ticking in hackle, the chocolate male with smutty under-color, the female without ticking and the female with dark cape and light breast all had their advocates; but no standard was accepted.

At the club meeting in 1901 a number of changes in the description of color were decided upon. In this, as in the discussions in the preceding meetings, it was conceded that utility was of prime importance. The following quotation from the Standard adopted at that time shows the sentiment of the meeting:

"The special aim of the promoters of this breed being to conserve vigor and prolificacy rather than immaculate perfection of color, black may find its place in sections enumerated and the gradual fading of the red portions of the mature hen's plumage, which naturally follows upon prolific laying, shall not be discriminated against in the placing of awards."



RHODE ISLAND RED CLUB OF AMERICA—Standard Cut
The ideal cut of the Rhode Island Red Club of America. Ex-Secretary Geo. P. Coffin recommends all Red breeders and judges to study these club ideals carefully.

The head of the Ideal Rose Comb male, adopted by the Rhode Island Red Club of America. The two varieties should be alike in shape and color, differing only in combs.

At the 1903 meeting the Standard was carefully revised and it was voted to apply to the American Poultry Association for admission to the American Standard of Perfection. In the 1903 club Standard we find the following: "Apparent vigor is to be regarded with the consideration of shape." This Standard was slightly modified by the A. P. A. to conform to that of other breeds, although in its essentials it has remained the same as when adopted by the club.

During the year 1909 an interesting controversy regarding some of the Standard descriptions was waged, and it became necessary for the club to show the American Poultry Association what the breeders desired. This was done in a way that left no doubt in the minds of

the Revision Committee, so the question was settled for at least five years, as to what shall constitute a perfect or standard Rhode Island Red, a description being given that is full and explicit, conforming closely to the club's Standard of 1903, with only such changes as the improvement of the breed and the experience of practical breeders had shown to be necessary for its further advancement.

We have called attention to the influence of the utility breeders as manifested in the Standard adopted. We would also direct the reader's attention to the fact that the club has worked for the advancement of the breed and the adoption of a better and more valuable type of fowl with a long, deep body, combining the egg type with the type of a meat producer. That the Reds are excellent producers of both eggs and meat, is the universal testimony of those who have bred them.

A comparison of the club ideals (presented in connection with this article) with the cuts in the American Standard of Perfection, shows the improvement in type. The club ideals also agree very well with the description adopted for the 1910 Standard. Breeders and judges should give these cuts careful attention, as they embody the views of the majority of Red breeders far better than the cuts in the 1905 A. P. A. Standard.

I shall not attempt to describe the color of a perfect Rhode Island Red. The Standard description is definite enough, except on the shades of red. An authority on color tells us there are sixty-four shades of red. Words are inadequate to express precisely what is meant in these color descriptions and judges and breeders have differed widely in their interpretation of them. Object lessons, such as the late Dr. Aldrich gave the club at several Boston meetings, and such as have been given at the Illinois State Fairs, are

The head of the Ideal Rose Comb female, adopted by the Rhode Island Red Club of America. The two varieties should be alike in shape and color, differing only in combs.

valuable methods of schooling the amateur in the study of red color.

The undercolor of both male and female should be free from any tinge of slate or white. This applies to breast, body and wing-bows as well as to the back, a point that many breeders and judges do not consider. The entire outer color should be free from shafting, mealiness, or black peppering, and the uniformity of color of the various sections is of the highest importance.

These are some of the characteristics of the ideal Rhode Island Red that it has been deemed advisable to mention in connection with a study of the Standard. How to produce such specimens is a question for breeders to consider. During the past year we have heard a great deal about double mating. Breeders who did not favor the black ticking in the female's hackle, or who were unable to produce it, contended that a double mating is necessary. On the other hand, many of our best breeders claim there is no necessity for such matings.

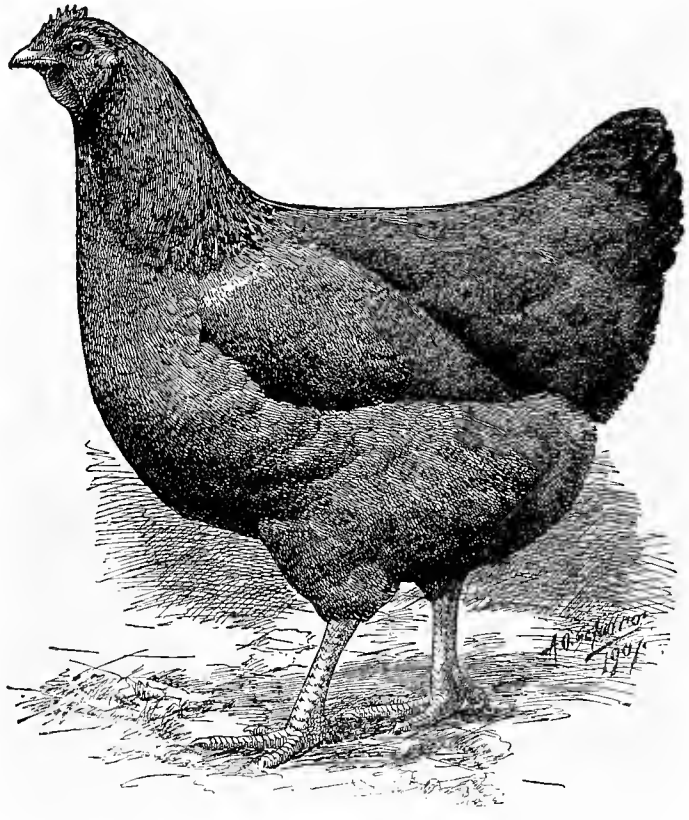
This question, like many similar questions in other lines of progressive work can best be answered by comparing the results attained by practical experiments. Until some of the advocates of double mating can produce and exhibit at New York or Boston a string of birds that surpasses those that have been exhibited there, that were produced by the single mating system, those of us who for a dozen years or more have bred along single matings lines can see no reason for advocating or practicing double mating or to change the Standard description of either sex.

Breeders of other varieties may give us advice based on theories and amateur breeders of Rhode Island Reds may believe that the same rules that produce winners in Barred Rocks, Brown Leghorns and some other breeds would prove successful with Reds, but the fact remains that the birds that win in the great shows are generally bred by men who have proved that they can produce winning specimens of both sexes from one mating. With these facts before us, why speculate as to what might be produced by some other course?

A Curious Characteristic

It is not my purpose to discuss at any length the art or science of breeding in general, but a few thoughts bearing directly upon the markings of hackles may be deemed worthy of consideration.

Many of the best colored males possess one peculiarity that I have never seen mentioned in print, but which I have often observed in my own birds, and recent inquiries brought



RHODE ISLAND RED CLUB OF AMERICA—Standard Cut

The ideal cut of the Rhode Island Red Club of America. These ideals were selected by the club as their standard models in preference to the illustrations used in the 1905 Standard. The Club approves of the word description that appears in the 1910 edition of the Standard.

out the fact that several prominent breeders have had the same experience, namely, that the hackle plumage of the male undergoes a summer moult. The rich, even red hackle that the bird wore in winter and early spring is replaced in summer with feathers terminating in a black spangle, ticking or striping. A few weeks later these feathers are dropped and the new clean feathers take their place. (Naturalists inform us that the Gallus Bankiva, the wild jungle fowl, passes through the same process and breeders of high-class exhibition Games of the Black Breasted Red variety have observed the same characteristics). When these R. I. Red males are mated with standard colored females, the progeny (both sexes) comes according to that law of "like produces like." Our lines can remain unbroken and constant progress can be made.

When all breeders of the Reds make a study of some of these peculiar characteristics and judiciously select and carefully mate their birds, they may be able to produce a better percentage of birds approaching standard ideals, and thus forever set at rest that delusion that we must double mate our Reds in order to produce the standard markings on both sexes.

Good foundation stock, careful line breeding, with rigid selection and intelligent management, will produce the specimens that approach the ideals. But in our eagerness to get the standard bird we must not lose sight of those features which the originators of this noble breed desired to perpetuate and which have made it so popular and intrinsically so valuable—the hardiness, vigor and prolificacy which must be combined with true shape and standard color to make the absolutely perfect bird.

RHODE ISLAND RED AS A STANDARD TYPE

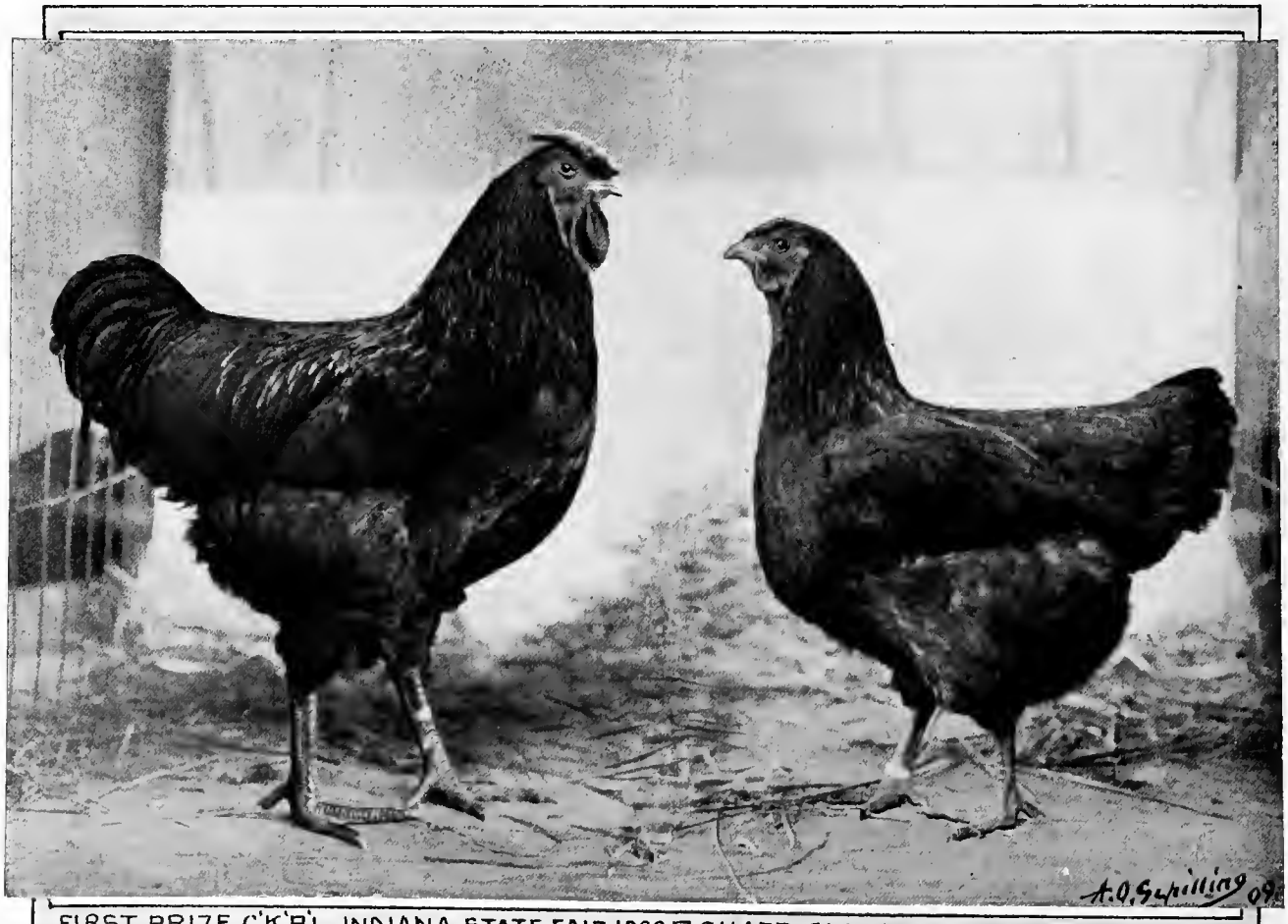
THEIR ADMISSION TO THE STANDARD—AMERICAN RED CONTROVERSY

WILLIAM C. DENNY

SINCE the first exhibit made at the Providence Poultry show in 1895 by Richard V. Browning, Natick, Mass., the success of the Rhode Island Red has been phenomenal. From an unknown variety, they have ascended the ladder in the estimation of the poultrymen of America, until today they are exceeded in the show room in numbers, only by Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes and Leghorns in the order named, and it should be remembered all but the Reds are breeds with a larger number of varieties.

Probably the greatest factor in the success of this famous "father of breeds" has been the strong virile specialty club that has been from first to last ever on the look-out for an opportunity to advertise and advance the interests of this variety.

The Rhode Island Red Club of America was organized in the fall of 1898 and the organization perfected at Fall


A.O. Schilling 09
FIRST PRIZE C'K'R'L. INDIANA STATE FAIR 1909
" " " ILLINOIS " " "
SHAPE SPECIAL PULLET ST. LOUIS 1909
Bred & Owned By W.D. LIPE LITCHFIELD ILL.

River, Mass., December 10th of the same year, when the following officers were elected: Daniel P. Shove, Fall River, Mass.; William P. Shepard, South Swansea, Mass.; Thos. W. Roe, Fall River, Mass.; R. G. Buffinton, Fall River, Mass.; John Crowther, Fall River, Mass. But not until a meeting in 1901 was a club Standard adopted which was as follows:

SHAPE—The shape of both sexes to conform to the general idea of the American class, without requiring the distinctive contour of the Plymouth Rock, nor the proportionately fuller curves of the Wyandotte. A long breast or keel-bone is desirable, and apparent vigor is to be regarded equally important with the consideration of shape.

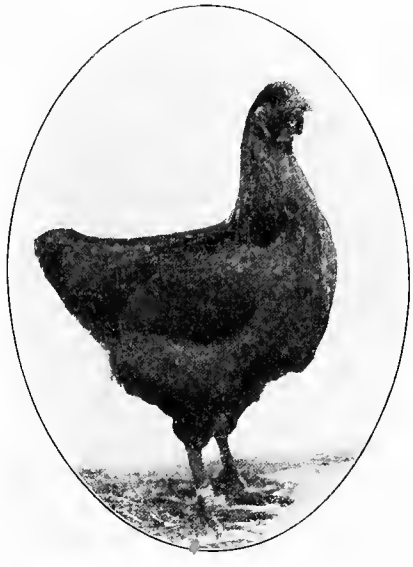
A good size of comb and wattles is desirable as betokening vigor. Symmetry of proportion in head adjuncts is to be considered, rather than conformance to any particular type, and the comb may be either single or rose. Shanks are free from down or feathers, stout and shapely in form and of medium length.

COLOR—The plumage color in both sexes to be red throughout, uniformity of tint being desirable in the pullets, the male to be deeper in tone and to have an accentuated depth of color on wing and back. This general color to be modified by the appearance of black in tail and under portions of wing flights in either sex, and a slight ticking of black in hackles of females. Under color red or deep buff. The especial aim of the promoters of this breed being to conserve vigor and prolificacy rather than immaculate perfection of color, black may find its place in sections enumerated, and the gradual fading of the red portions of the mature hen's plumage, which naturally follows upon prolific laying, shall not be discriminated against in the placing of awards.

Comb, wattles and ear-lobes should be of that bright red color which betokens a healthy condition. Shanks, toes and beak yellow or reddish yellow.

STANDARD WEIGHTS—Cock, 7½ pounds; hen, 6 pounds; cockerel, 6 pounds; pullet, 4½ pounds.

DISQUALIFICATIONS--Diseased specimens; anatomical defects; wholly white ear-lobes; wry tails; feathers on shanks or toes, having a perceptible quill; badly lopped comb.



A prize winning S. C. Rhode Island Red pullet, winner of first at Iowa State Fair, 1910. Bred by Mrs. F. W. McIntyre, Red Oak, Iowa.

This Standard, while describing the breed as it then existed was rather obscure in description for shape, and being comparative in nature, through reference to the Plymouth Rock and Wyandotte varieties in the shape sections, was greatly objected to. The flexible color description was evidently a good thing for the variety, as, at that time Rhode Island Reds were anything but uniform in color, the males resembling the Buff Rock and Buff Wyandotte males of that period excepting perhaps deeper color of the wing-bows, while the female with the exception of the hackles shaded to a mixed creamy brick color.

Advocates of single and rose comb varieties were present at this meeting, as were also a number of breeders who were very desirous that the pea comb variety should be recognized. The sentiment of the meeting however, was favorable only to the single and rose combs and the opportunity for the pea comb as a Standard variety was in all probability lost forever, though it cannot be questioned that before any pretense was made to breed the Reds to ideals of shape and color, in the original flocks kept strictly for utility purposes the pea comb was nearly, if not quite as common as the single and rose combs, in fact it was an easy matter to find all three varieties of combs in the same flock. The original Standard was in force until the annual meeting in 1903, except a few changes in the description of color that were made at the club meeting, when a more definite Standard, the one on which the Club made application for admission as a Standard breed, was adopted.

The single comb became a Standard variety at the meeting of the American Poultry Association held at Rochester in 1904. Prior to this meeting opposition was manifested by some breeders of Buff Rocks and Buff Wyandottes, who in view of the wide range of types and shades of color in specimens of Rhode Island Reds that had been exhibited before this time, were not in favor of their admission. The advocates of the Reds were prepared for this opposition and by the members of their club making an exhibit of high class birds as an object lesson, that the Reds and the two breeds named could not possibly be confused, the opponents to their admission withdrew.

During the year following the Rochester meeting an organized attempt was made on the part of a number of breeders to call the Rose Comb Rhode Island Reds, American Reds and at the annual meeting of the association at Minneapolis in January, 1905, a motion was adopted of which the following is a part: "That the Rose Comb Rhode Island Reds be admitted to the Standard of American Poultry Association under the proposed Standard set out in said application; that the Rose Comb Rhode Island Reds be admitted under the name of American Reds by which name they shall be known hereafter." This aroused more than a "tempest in a teapot" on the part of the Rose Comb Rhode Island Red breeders who were not in favor of a change in name, and a special meeting of the association was called in Pittsburg, April 4th, 1906, for the purpose of "reconsidering the action of the association in admitting at the meeting at Minneapolis Minn., breeds to the American Standard under the name of American Reds." After a heated meeting, and discussion lasting an entire day and evening, the motion was passed to reconsider the motion made at Minneapolis, whereby the American Reds were admitted. This threw the American Reds out of the Standard and left the matter where it stood at the Minneapolis meeting, before they were admitted. A motion was then made and passed that the consideration of all new breeds be postponed until the next annual meeting.

At the thirtieth annual meeting of the American Poultry Association, held at Cincinnati, Ohio, January, 1906, the motion that the Rose Comb Rhode Island Reds be admitted as American Reds, the same motion that was made at Minneapolis the year before was withdrawn and the Rose Comb Rhode Island Reds were admitted as a Standard variety.

HISTORY OF STANDARD-BRED RHODE ISLAND REDS

D. E. HALE

WE READ elsewhere how the advancement of the R. I. Reds was pushed by the R. I. Red Club of America. It is our desire to preserve here, for the sake of future generations, the historical facts in regard to the origin and changes made in the R. I. Red Standard.

The Reds were bred to comply with the club Standard some years before they were admitted to the American Poultry Association Standard of Perfection.

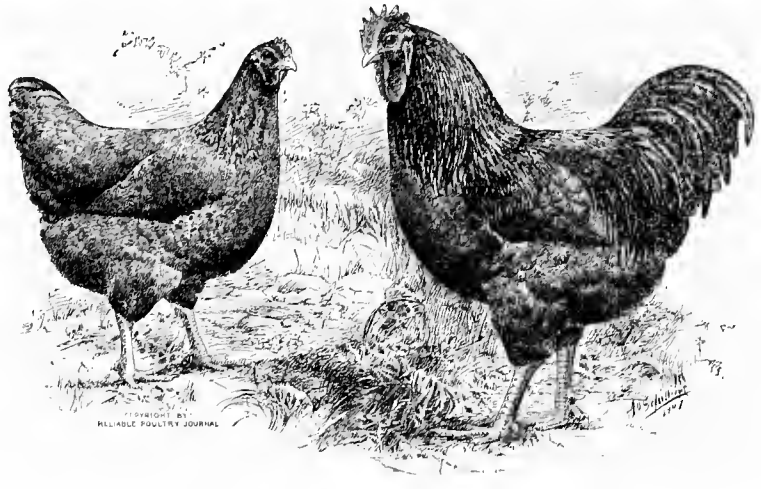
We also note in the previous pages that at the club meeting held at Fall River, Mass., in connection with the poultry show, a club standard was discussed but no regular standard was adopted.

We are indebted to Mr. Geo. P. Coffin, Ex-Secretary of the R. I. Red Club of America for the following standards of the club; the first one as adopted in 1901 and the revision as adopted in 1903.

Standard for Rhode Island Reds

Adopted at the meeting of the American Rhode Island Club, in Boston, Mass., January 17, 1901.

SHAPE—The shape of both sexes is to conform to the general idea of the American class, without requiring the distinctive contour of the Plymouth Rock, or the proportionately fuller curves of the Wyandotte. A long breast or keel-bone is desirable, and apparent vigor is to be regarded equally important with the consideration of shape.



A PAIR OF 1907 MODEL S. C. RHODE ISLAND REDS
While these models show the horizontal back called for by the 1910 Standard they are somewhat short in back and body.

A medium size of comb and of wattles is desirable. The head should be of medium size and breadth. Symmetry of proportion in head adjuncts to be considered. Two kinds of comb are recognized—the single and rose—each to be bred as a distinct variety. Shanks are to be free from down or feathers; stout and shapely in form and length.

COLOR—The plumage color in the male is to be brilliant or rich red throughout, except where black appears; this general red color to be modified by the appearance of black in tails and under portions of wing flights in either sex, and a ticking of black in hackles of females. The undercolor is to be red, salmon, or buff. The main tail feathers and the two main sickle feathers are to be black or greenish black.

The plumage of the female is to be lighter than that of the male, with a bright reddish surface color and undercolor free from slate or smut. The main tail feathers are to be black.

The comb, wattles and ear-lobes in either sex should be of that bright red color which betokens a healthy condition.

The eyes are to be red.

The color of the shanks and toes is to be yellow or reddish yellow, but the front of the shanks and the upper surface of the toes may be modified by reddish horn color. The beak is to be yellow or reddish horn color.

NOTE—The especial aim of the promoters of this breed being to conserve vigor and prolificacy rather than immaculate perfection of color, black may find its place in sections enumerated; and the gradual fading of the red portions of the mature hen's plumage, which naturally follows upon prolific laying, shall not be discriminated against in the placing of awards.

WEIGHTS—Standard weights: Cock, 7½ pounds; hen, 6 pounds; cockerel, 6 pounds; pullet, 4½ pounds.

DISQUALIFICATIONS—Diseased specimens, wholly white ear-lobes, wry tail feathers, or down on shanks or toes, crooked back or beak, and badly lopped combs.

In 1903 the club made application to the American Poultry Association to have the R. I Reds admitted as a Standard breed with the following description:

Disqualifications

Feather or down on shanks or feet, or unmistakable indications of a feather having been plucked from the same.

Badly lopped combs.

More than four toes on either foot.

Entire absence of main tail feathers.

Two absolutely white (so-called wall or fish) eyes.

Wry or Squirrel tails.

A feather entirely white that shows in the outer plumage.

Ear-lobes showing more than one-half the surface permanently white. This does not mean the pale ear-lobes, but the enamel white.

Diseased Specimens—Crooked backs, deformed beaks, shanks and feet other than yellow or red horn color.

A pendulous crop shall be cut hard.

Under all disqualifying clauses the specimen shall have the benefit of the doubt.

Standard Weights

Cock, 8½ pounds.
Cockerel, 7½ pounds.
Hen, 6½ pounds.
Pullet, 5 pounds.

Apparent vigor is to be regarded as important as the consideration of shape.

Shape of Male

HEAD—Of medium size and breadth.

BEAK—Short and regularly curved.

EYES—Sight perfect, and unobstructed by breadth of head or comb.

COMB—Single, medium in size, set firmly upon the head, perfectly straight and upright, free from side sprigs, with five even and well-defined serrations, those in front and rear smaller than those in the center, of considerable breadth where it is fixed to the head.

ROSE—Low, firm on the head, top oval in shape and surface covered with small points terminating in a small spike at the rear. The comb to conform to general curve of the head.

WATTLES—Medium and equal in length, moderately rounded.

EAR-LOBES—Well developed. Symmetry of proportion in head adjuncts is to be considered.

NECK—Of medium length and carried slightly forward, not arched backward. It is covered with abundant hackle, flowing over the shoulders but not too loosely feathered.

BACK—Broad, long, and in the main nearly horizontal; this horizontal effect being modified by slightly rising curves at hackle and lesser tail coverts. Saddle feathers of medium length and abundant.

BREAST—Broad, deep, and carried nearly in a line perpendicular to the base of the beak, at least it should not be carried anterior to this line.

BODY—Deep, broad and long, keel-bone long, straight and extending well forward and back, giving the body an oblong look.

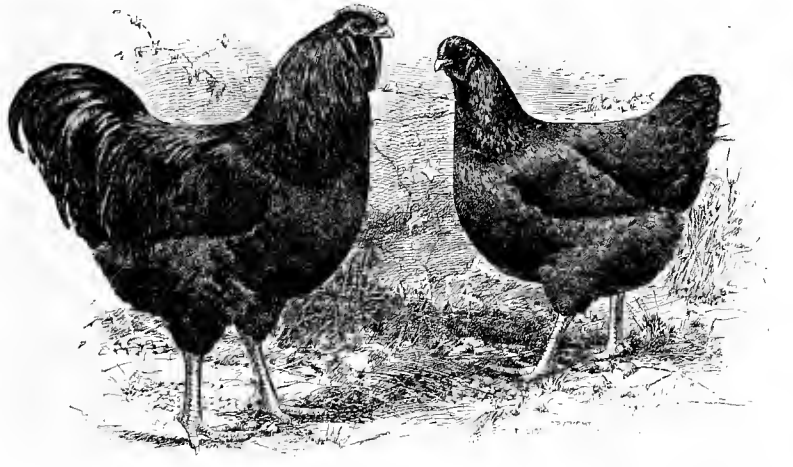
FLUFF—Moderately full but feathers carried fairly close to the body, not a Cochin-fluff.

WINGS—Of good size, well folded and the flights carried horizontally.

TAIL—Of medium length, quite well spread, carried fairly well back, increasing the apparent length of the bird. Sickles of medium length, passing a little beyond the main tail feathers. Lesser sickles and tail coverts of medium length and fairly abundant.

LEGS—Thighs large, of medium length and well covered with soft feathers. Shanks of medium length, well rounded and smooth.

TOES—Straight, strong, well spread and medium length.



One of the 1907 models of R. C. R. I. Reds comparing well with those used today. Note the horizontal backs as called for by the new 1910-15 Standard of Perfection.

Color of the Male

BEAK—Red horn color, or yellow.

EYES—Red.

FACE—Bright red.

COMB-WATTLES AND EAR-LOBES—Bright red.

SHANKS AND TOES—Yellow or red horn color. A line of red pigment down the same is desirable.

PLUMAGE—General surface rich brilliant red except when black is desired. Free from shafting, meally appearance or brassy effect. Depth of color (red) is slightly accentuated on wing-bows and back, but the less contrast between these parts and the hackle or breast the better; a harmonious blending is what is desired. The bird should be so brilliant in lustre as to have a glossed appearance. Other things being equal the specimen having the deepest and richest red, salmon, or buff under color shall receive the award. Any smut or white in the under color is to be cut hard. The quill of the feather should be red or salmon. White showing on the outside of the body is to be cut harder than white that is out of sight. Black is desired in the under-web of the wing-flights. The main tail feathers and two main sickle feathers are to be black or greenish black. The greater tail coverts are mainly black, but as they approach the saddle they may become russet or red. The blending of the red body with the black tail is gradual, thus preventing any sudden contrast. With the saddle parted showing the under color at the base of the tail, the appearance should be red or salmon, not whittish or smoky. The hackle should be free from black although a suspicion of black, that can hardly be found, would not cut the bird much. White in hackle will be cut harder than black. The wing-bars should be free from black, and all black in the primaries and secondaries should be out of sight when the wing is folded.

Shape of the Female

HEAD—Of medium size and breath.

BEAK—Short and slightly curved.

EYES—Sight perfect and unobstructed by breadth of head.

COMB—Single, medium in size, set firmly upon the head, perfectly straight and upright, free from side sprigs with five even and well-defined serrations.

ROSE—Low, firm on the head, much smaller than that of the male and in proportion to its length much narrower. Covered with small points and terminating in a small short spike at the rear.

WATTLES—Medium and equal in length, moderately rounded.

EAR-LOBES—Well developed. Symmetry of proportion in head adjuncts is to be considered.

NECK—Of medium length and carried slightly forward, at least not much arched backward. Hackle sufficient but not too coarse in feather.

BACK—Long, in the main nearly horizontal. In the completely matured hen it would be described as broad, whereas in the pullet not yet well matured, it will look somewhat narrow in proportion to the length of her body. The curve from the horizontal back to the hackle or tail should be moderate and gradual.

BREAST—Deep, broad and carried in a line nearly perpendicular to the base of the beak, at least not anterior to that line.

BODY—Deep, broad and long, keel-bone long and straight, giving the body an oblong look.

FLUFF—Moderately full, but not loose (cochin) in feathering.

WINGS—Of good size well folded; the flights carried horizontally.

TAIL—A little shorter than medium, quite well spread, carried well back, increasing a trifle the apparent length of the bird. The tail should form no apparent angle with the back, neither must it be met by a high rising cushion.

LEGS—Thighs, of medium length and well covered with soft feathers. Shanks, of medium length, well rounded and smooth. Toes, straight, strong, well spread and of medium length.

Color of the Female

BEAK—Red horn color or yellow.
EYES—Red.
FACE—Bright red.
COMB, WATTLES AND EAR-LOBES—Bright red.
SHANKS AND TOES—Rich yellow or red horn color.

PLUMAGE—General surface color lighter than in the male, free from shafting or mealy appearance. Except where black is desired the color is a rich even shade of reddish buff, darker than the so-called "golden buff." The female is not so brilliant in lustre as the male. Allowance should be made for the fading of the mature hen incidental to her prolific laying. The under color is of reddish salmon or buff, free from foreign colors. Other things being equal the specimen having the richest undercolor shall receive the award. The quill of the feather should be red or salmon. The general surface color in the female is more even than in the male. White showing in any part of the plumage is a serious objection. Black peppering in the outer plumage of any feather is also very objectionable. Black is desired in the under web of the wing flight, and on the tip end of some hackle feathers. This black in the hackle should be a ticking rather than a heavy lacing. Females without ticking, superior in other points shall be given awards over those that have ticking. The main tail feathers are to be black or greenish black.

WINNER OF FIRST AND SPECIAL GOLD MEDAL CHAMPION
SWEEPSTAKES FOR BEST BIRD IN THE SHOW
KANSAS CITY, MO., NOV. 29 TO DEC. 3, 1910.
BRED AND OWNED BY T. L. RICKSECKER, ROSEDALE, KAS.

At the meeting of the A. P. A. at Rochester, N. Y., January, 1904; the R. I. Reds were admitted as a standard breed. The Standard requirements were changed somewhat in order to make the wording somewhat shorter and plainer. Down was allowed upon the shanks and between the toes so as not to disqualify unless it was feather or feathers. The other disqualifications given in the 1903 club Standard were covered by the "general disqualifications" in the A. P. A. Standard, so do not appear under R. I. Reds. Description of male is as follows: Beak was made to read "slightly curved" instead of regularly curved. Eye description was changed to read: "Prominent" instead of the description shown above. Comb description remained practically the same. Wattles description the same; ear-lobes description changed to read: "rather small, almond-shaped; fine in texture." Neck description remains nearly the same. Back description merely changed a little in wording, having the same general meaning. Breast description was shortened to read: "Deep, full, well rounded." Body and fluff section practically the same. Wing and tail description nearly the same; the tail description adding that "tail should be carried at an angle of forty degrees." Legs and toes remain the same.

Color of Male

Beak made to read: "Reddish horn." Eyes, Comb, Face, Wattles and Ear-lobes remain the same; "Bright red." Legs and Toes remain the same. The description of plumage color remains practically the same; the description in the above 1903 Standard being longer and more explicit.

Shape of Female

The description of the female was shortened to agree with the shape of the male, having nearly the same meaning as the Standard of 1903. The eyes were made to read: "Prominent." Description of comb, both single and rose, read: "Similar to the male, only much smaller."

Same can be said of wattles and ear-lobes. Neck is "of moderate length; hackle, moderately full." Back: "Long, carried nearly horizontal." Breast, Body and Fluff: Same as male description. Wings: "Rather large, well folded; fronts, well covered by breast feathers; flights carried nearly horizontal." Tail: "Rather short, moderately spread, carried at an angle of thirty-five degrees from the horizontal." Legs and Toes, same description as for male.

Color of Female

Beak: "Reddish horn." Eyes, Face, Comb, Wattles and Ear-lobes: "Bright red." Neck: "Red; lower hackle feathers ending with black tips." Wings: "Primaries, lower web black, upper web red; secondaries, lower web red, upper web black; wing-coverts, black." Tail: "Black except two top feathers which may be edged with red." Shanks and Toes same as male description. Other plumage color is described practically the same as in 1903 Standard as shown above.

At the revision of the New 1910 Standard, strenuous efforts were made by a few to have some radical changes made allowing smut in the under color but the club finally succeeded in having practically the old or 1905 Standard adopted. The eyes are now described as "large, oval and prominent." and the back is described as "horizontal" instead of "nearly horizontal." "Down" on shanks or toes now disqualifies. The description of the wing-color is now a little more explicit, being worded so as to be more easily understood. Having a standard that is practically unchanged for ten years the breeders of Reds ought to be able to breed pretty close to standard requirements and they are making great improvement.

CHAPTER III

HOW TO PRODUCE EXHIBITION RHODE ISLAND REDS

GOOD BREEDING OF PRIME IMPORTANCE IN PRODUCING EXHIBITION R. I. REDS—DOUBLE MATING A GREAT DETRIMENT TO THE BREED—UNIFORMITY IN COLOR IS NOW BEING ATTAINED

D. W. RICH

NO ONE who takes notice of the wide-spread popularity of poultry shows, both in this and in foreign countries, can fail to perceive what a great and dignified business the production of exhibition birds has come to be. It is attracting people in all walks of life as a healthy, fascinating and profitable employment.

The fancy poultry business depends chiefly upon the intrinsic merits of the various breeds of fowl. Beauty alone in a breed is not enough to insure it a high and permanent rank as an exhibition fowl. In addition to beauty there must be native qualities of practical value and usefulness. In these characteristics the Rhode Island Reds are now decidedly in the lead, and as exhibition fowls they have on that account a great future before them.

There are a multitude of little details connected with the task of raising an exhibition Rhode Island Red, and most of them are understood only from experience. Aside from these daily cares, which commence when the chick first opens its eyes upon the world and end when it stands in its coop, beautifully groomed, waiting for the blue ribbon, there are a few important principles of breeding which the fancier cannot know too well. Good buildings, ample range and proper care are essential and play their part, but the first class show specimen must, after all, get its good markings with typical shape and sound color from a well-bred ancestry.

The fancier should also understand the difficulties that confront him and know how to overcome them and how to attain desired improvements in the breed. I am convinced that the most difficult problem in breeding fancy Rhode Island Reds is the matter of producing the right color. Shape or type is more easily acquired, is better understood and is less likely to be lost, than color. Not that color is more important, but it is essential and cannot be ignored.

It is in a way unfortunate for the Rhode Island Reds that they became popular so suddenly. The demand for them is so great, that many incompetent breeders, sacrificing the purity of the breed for insignificant private gain, introduce into their flocks, and put on the market, birds that are wholly unfit to be used as breeders. The consequence is that, with so many undesirable and inferior birds in the breeding yards, the difficulty of breeding Rhode Island Reds true to type and color is thereby immeasurably increased.

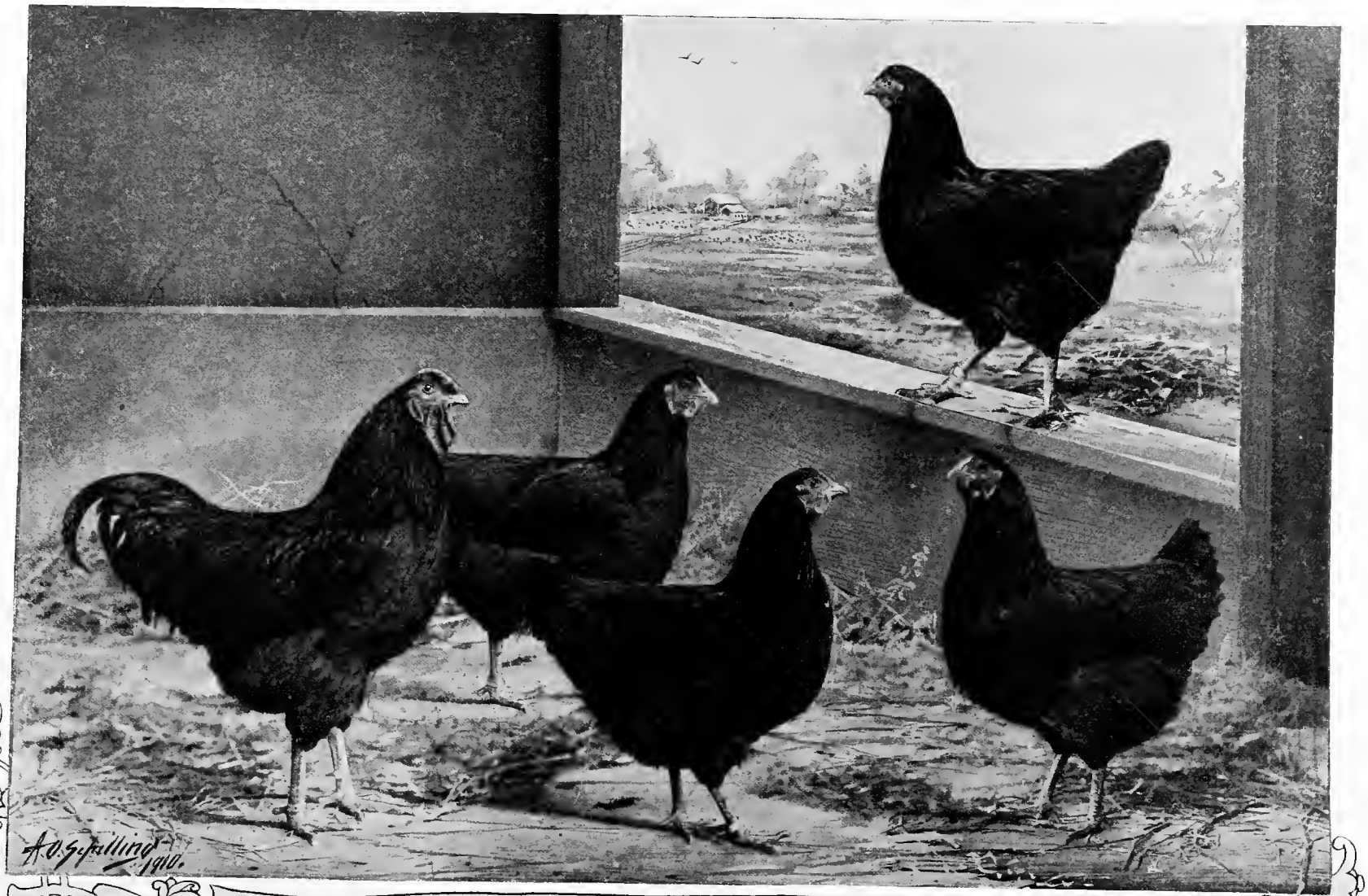
The importance of good breeding in trying to produce exhibition Rhode Island Reds can therefore not be too strongly urged. A bird descended from ancestors having no uniform type or color will, without a doubt, produce a flock as varied in color and type as the birds that constituted its family line. "Like begets like," is a familiar rule, but it should be remembered that in trying to reproduce a certain bird, you have to contend with what precedes both male and female. But good points are transmitted as well as bad ones. If the ancestors were uniformly good, the offspring is certain to be as good, and, in the hands of a skilled breeder, better. Typical and standard birds are not produced by chance. They are the result of careful and scientific breeding, continued year after year, perfected by slowly improving section after section. Characteristics acquired in this way, and transmitted from generation to generation, become fixed in the breed and are easily transmissible. A good wing marking, for instance, that exists in a marked degree in a family for a long time is so fixed that it will continue to appear unless stopped by an indiscriminate cross. The wisdom of looking into the family history of a bird intended as a breeder of exhibition quality is then clearly recognized. Always ask the question "Whence comest thou?" The bird should possess blood transmitted by a long line of ancestors that were free from undesirable traits. The value of a bird as a breeder does not consist in what it will score, but in what it is able to produce.

Double Mating Unnecessary

Having decided that the bird is well bred, the next thing to consider is its shape and color. The bird coming nearest standard requirements is the one to select, and this applies to color as well as it does to shape. I believe there should be no difference between the color or type of a breeder and that of a standard or show bird. Standard males and females mated together ought to produce exhibition birds. There would be no occasion for double mating if matings were made up in this way. Double mating must eventually be detrimental to the breed. We must never lose sight of the relation existing between the exhibition bird and its less handsome but productive kin. It is only by reason of the popularity of a breed as a utility fowl that the show bird has an existence. A breed first establishes a reputation as a utility fowl, as a money maker, and as a fowl that may be easily bred by the beginner and the non-expert. It is then possible for the breed to become popular as a show fowl. This, precisely, has been the history and the course of development, of the Rhode Island Reds.

Now if the color of standard Rhode Island Reds is to be different from that of the bird used as a breeder, if the farmer, the non-expert, the small chicken raiser, is compelled to go to the trouble of keeping two or more matings of birds of various shades of color to produce a few right colored birds, if the difficulty of breeding Rhode Island Reds is increased by double mating, the value and popularity of the breed must necessarily be diminished. And that is not all. Double mating can never settle the color question. If we must use as breeders birds that are not standard, we cannot hope that a large per cent of their progeny will be standard. Go and look over a flock of Rhode Island Reds, and you will find that some of the birds are light in color and others are dark. This is a fault that everybody notices. Double mating perpetuates this fault, because from breeders some of which are light and others dark, it is only possible to get both light and dark colored birds.

On the other hand, if we mate standard males to standard females, and continue this method by judicious line breeding for a number of years, until the color becomes reasonably fixed, why will we not get standard birds? Why will the flock not be more uniform in color and in type? Why will not the quality of the color be infinitely improved? The aim in mating Rhode Island Reds should be to produce a



FIRST PRIZE PEN ROSE COMB R·I· REDS, MISSOURI STATE SHOW ST·LOUIS MO·DEC·1909.
BRED OWNED AND EXHIBITED BY
D·W·RICH
MT·PLEASANT IOWA.

flock uniform in color, whether the birds are intended for exhibition or for utility purposes. To accomplish this it is necessary to discard breeders that vary in shade of color, birds that are too light or too dark. Get them as near standard color as possible. Judges and fanciers understand color better every year. While there is still a difference of opinion as to what constitutes standard color, this difference will adjust itself in time. It is not improbable that in the future a color that is a shade darker than that considered right in the past, will be adopted. Experience shows that a rich, deep red color is not so liable to be lost by fading as are the lighter shades. An extreme dark color, however, such as is now fancied in certain places, will never gain universal favor, because of its damaging results in breeding, and because it lacks the most significant quality of red color. It is dull. It lacks brightness, richness, brilliancy. These attributes red color must have. And, excepting the tail which is black, the color must be so even, or uniform, from hackle to saddle, that when the various sections are compared, the effect is harmonious. The undercolor needs less attention, and will in most cases be good, where the surface color is bred as above described. Poultrymen, with practically not a single exception, have very decided views on the matter of undercolor. All demand that it be a clean, rich red, and that is as it should be.

When it comes to body shape, it is necessary to point out the horizontal back, and the length and depth of the body. Like under standing red color, it is only after careful reading of the Standard with wide experience in observing good specimens in the show room, that a clear conception of Rhode Island Red shape can be acquired. The matter of shape is by no means merely a fancier's hobby, or a breeder's talking point. It is a characteristic of the breed that must be bred and maintained if we expect the Red hen to hold her enviable record as a great egg producer. It takes a certain shaped body, in a cow, to make a good milker. A hen, to produce lots of eggs, must have a frame-work adapted for that purpose. It requires a body that is long and deep to produce eggs, and such a body we find in the Red hen. So while to the laying Red hen this peculiarity of the body means great egg producing capacity, to the exhibition Red it means rare physical grace and beauty.

As a show fowl the Rhode Island Reds are yet in their infancy. Handsome as they now are, they are susceptible of great improvement and progress. The lines of advancement for sometime will be, not a change from, but rather an attainment of, the present Standard. With imperfect specimens to work with, the producer of exhibition Rhode Island Reds will not attain the desired improvement in a single season; but if he loves his work and understands the art of breeding, with a perfect Standard as a guide, he will in due time perfect what promises to become the most popular breed of fowls in the world.

BREEDING FOR TYPE AND COLOR

BEST TYPE OF A GENERAL PURPOSE FOWL EXISTS IN THE R. I. RED—IT IS IDENTICAL WITH THE SHOW ROOM TYPE OF THE BREED—HOW TO SECURE IT IN THE FLOCK—HOW TO SELECT AND CONDITION THE BIRDS FOR THE SHOW ROOM—BREEDING—HATCHING AND BROODING—FEEDING AND VENTILATION—R. I. RED TYPE—R. I. RED COLOR—SINGLE. MATING PREFERRED—EXHIBITING—MARKET FOR GOOD SPECIMENS—PRICES

IRA M. CROWTHER

THE BREEDING of the Rhode Island Red fowl for the past seven or eight years has been extremely interesting to me. The difficulties in breeding to overcome experimental matings, studying them, in fact, practically living with the subject all this time has given me valuable experience and also some strong pointers on many of the vital points of the breed. The principal reasons for my taking up the breeding of the Reds were the beautiful, rich, red coloring and that grand utility type described by the Standard. I believe they have one of the best types, if not the best, for general purposes in existence today.

The showroom demands a type in the Red identical to that demanded of a fowl for ideal general utility purposes. It is certainly a great pleasure when trying to produce exhibition quality to put together in one's breeding yards, Standard color and Standard type knowing that the very highest utility or general purpose qualities will be attained under this same Standard mating. For what other of the American breeds can we say as much?

Important Considerations

I will now take up the subject of breeding first-class exhibition and utility Reds, commencing with the egg before incubation. First, I never overload a male with females. I find a much higher per cent of fertility and better hatches of stronger chicks when a male is mated to five or six females than when mated with twelve or fifteen. I see that the breeders have lots of fresh air and clean quarters, not necessarily polished floors, but good clean houses free from damp dirt and bad odors.

I select eggs of medium size, not small or over large. My experience is that over large eggs hatch no better than very small ones. I prefer hens for hatching, for if set intelligently they hatch a higher per cent of chicks and we find fewer weaklings. However, the incubator is indispensable for early hatching and when thirty-five to forty chicks are placed in the brooders, instead of seventy-five to one hundred, the results will be gratifying. I believe one of the principal reasons for better brooding with hens is the fact that rarely more than twenty-five chicks are placed together and these are in no danger of crowding and thus they get a much better supply of fresh air.

When chicks are to be hatched with a hen, I prepare good, roomy nests, (close, small nests will seldom give good hatches) then dust my hens thoroughly with Dalmation powder. I always set hens on the floor and isolate them from other birds. When the chicks are hatched, or a day or so before, we dust the hens again. This will not hurt little chicks at all and we rarely see any lice or mites of any kind.

After thirty-six hours we feed hard boiled eggs using the tested out or infertile eggs; for about four to six weeks "chick feed" (dry grain) then for six weeks more "growing feed." After this I use No. 3 or "scratch feed" composed of mixed grains. Spratts Patent crissel mixed with coarse

middlings is supplied continuously after the chicks are three or four days of age, usually once a day, at noon. I prefer hopper feeding of the dry grains to growing stock, as it gives them all an equal chance.

One of the most important points is to look after their comfort at night. I provide plenty of room and good air. One cannot raise exhibition specimens in close stuffy coops or boxes. They sweat and fret all night and the loss of vitality will soon show itself in ragged, off-colored, small, rough-looking chicks.

Type of Breeders

Now for mating and breeding. Type first must be selected. Study the many excellent cuts of Reds by artist Schilling, who has with his pictures done more than any other one man to fix correct type in the minds of breeders. We can all talk about ideal type, but when we get through talking, Schilling's pictures begin like oratory and music; where oratory leaves off, music begins. Select those of long, horizontal bodies and deep tail, wide back, breast full and carried well forward. Once this type is fixed in the mind, we cannot miss the good ones; they can be recognized at a glance.

This long, deep type is producing an egg yield that is wonderful and will breed wonderfully true. I think it is much the easiest thing to breed in a Red. Stick to correct type and do not depend wholly on females for it either. I find the male should be about right in every particular for the best results.

How to Mate for Color

Next comes color and here we have the worst stumbling block. I favor single mating as the term is commonly accepted. A writer in one of our club papers said, or insinuated, a short time ago, that the breeder who advocated single mating under the present Standard must be ignorant or bereft of the usual amount of intellect as it could not be practiced with success. Now I am glad to feel that this opinion is not the universal one, in spite of the fact that this writer tried to finish the subject everlastingly. He also said that all matings other than those with birds up to Standard requirements were double matings. This may he so, strictly speaking, but it will be found as with all single mating varieties, that certain individuals will favor in breeding one sex or the other many times, directly contrary to theory. Such birds are used to the best advantage always, and no double mating system can be held up against such matings any more than the same could be declared of a similar mating in any of the white breeds. How often we hear of a certain White Wyandotte male: "He is nothing of a show bird, hut he does breed the finest exhibition males of any breeder I have ever owned."

Double mating as practiced by Barred Rock breeders does not apply at all to the Reds. The average standard mating will produce as many males as females that show a tendency to buff. I do not consider it necessary to use a male with striped hackle or with smut in back to keep up strong color with good black sections. The best females I have ever bred were produced with clear males and standard females. Such matings with those breeders having color well advanced, will produce as many standard females as any system of mating.

Smut in the back or any other section of a Red is a defect to the eye of a true fancier and all the arguments and Standards in the world, in my opinion, cannot change it. Any breeder who favors or advocates it, I am sure has not been very successful with the color breeding in his own flock. But, if one will persevere in breeding for correct color, success will be attained. My own Reds are breeding males and females from the same matings that are red through and through and not over five per cent are showing a tendency toward buff. To be sure it is a difficult thing to breed fine color all over with good black sections, etc., but it is also a difficult thing to breed a perfect Wyandotte and they have been bred for fancy points for many years.

Selecting the Breeders

I select males of even, good rich red color, such that when hackle, back and wing-bows are put together, hardly a shade of contrast can be seen between these sections. I never use a male with white in any section.

The male generally has strong control over comb, eye and head points. Under-color is important and clear, rich red or salmon in all sections is desired. The female should be fully as dark as the breast and fluff of male and may be darker red. True ticking in hackle (not lacing) with good back, tail and strong wing will be ideal for breeding as to color. The important thing in surface color, so much overlooked, is that quality of evenness, so even that you cannot see where one feather commences or leaves off—a smooth, soft red, free from shafting. Such females mated to good even-colored standard males will produce wonderful color and they will certainly strengthen the confidence of any breeder who has lost faith in the color question. Haphazard mating will not make for progress. I urge special matings of four or five birds, such as are balanced and of correct blood lines. Intelligent line-breeding, based on correct type and vigor is surely putting the Reds in the front ranks.

One of the weakest points in the Reds is the fading of hens in consequence of heavy laying. It is hard to show them and hard to sell them, although the breeding value is not in the least depreciated. However, the color is improving and after a number of years of careful color breeding, selecting the even soft red kind, the hens will moult in almost as red as their virgin color. I never use mahogany or chocolate males or females; in fact, have hardly one per cent of these colors cropping out in my flock today, where five years ago they would show up plentifully.

Exhibiting

Now for showing. Proper conditioning is very important. I select show specimens as soon as they are old enough to show fine quality and place them together in a pen to themselves. One should never select such birds just before showing and perhaps put strangers together. There are too many chances of fighting resulting in disfigured combs, broken feathers, etc., and after cooping in the showroom, it puts an exhibition pen out of the showing to have one or two females pecking and driving others around the coop. They should all be tame and have an air of happiness and contentment.

I feed lightly the day before showing so they will eat freely the morning that the judge sees them and their crops will be filled out normally, adding materially to symmetry. Clean them up generally before showing. Get them in such condition all over that the impression will be given that they have been raised in a country where dirt is unknown.

With good specimens shown in good condition, one will surely be rewarded in the showroom, but should you find a first prize ribbon on the coop of a Red Langshan, or a mahogany Red with ten or more different shades of red showing, don't get discouraged, but show again. This has happened many times and will happen again. Remember it is no fault of the birds.

Market for Good Specimens

I have found a market for all the Reds I can raise at good prices. In fact, I have not been able to fill many orders

for birds at the highest prices as the demand is always in excess of the supply and I believe always will be. I had to reject orders last year for more than a thousand pullets for good utility stock after selling all I could spare.

Prices for exhibition stock have advanced wonderfully in the last five years. Five or six years ago, $25 would buy about the best male that was for sale. Now $100 and $200 is asked for the choicest specimens. I believe successful breeders will find a demand for the Reds at as good prices as are paid for any breed in the world within a few years. The more generally known and popular they become, the keener the competition, the higher the prices will go; the same as it is today with all of the popular older breeds. Finally, after taking into consideration all their strong as well as weak points, I would strongly recommend the Reds with their specified, combined standard, for ideal utility and fancy.

In conclusion I shall give the history of a little Red orphan. One day in the spring after a hard rain, a lady in our town found a little chick lying in the grass almost dead. She took it home, warmed it up, fed and nursed it back to health. It turned out to be a Rhode Island Red pullet and in a few months she proved her Rhode Island Red blood. An accurate account was kept of her laying for one year and her record was 212 eggs. This pullet with her record, was exhibited at the Willoughby Fanciers Club show, January 1909, and won the blue ribbon for female of any variety showing the largest egg record for one year.

TEN YEARS WITH S. C. RHODE ISLAND REDS

EXPERIENCED BREEDER GIVES HIS IDEA OF R. I. RED SHAPE AND COLOR—HOW TO MATE AND LINE BREED—AN INTERESTING DIAGRAM—SOME HINTS TO JUDGES

OSCAR E. MILES

I HAVE bred the Single Comb Reds on rather a large scale for the past ten years and with each year's experience I find that there is much for me to learn.

The Reds are the result of at least forty years of out-crossing. The founders of the breed introduced new blood only from the male side, using the red male and paying little or no attention to the color of the female, which caused a number of different colors and shades. Their desire was to produce a breed having strong vitality and which were great egg layers and they succeeded to a wonderful degree, for there is certainly no breed of fowls more vigorous and, in my opinion, they will produce as many eggs in the entire year, when properly handled, as any breed of chickens in existence.

Laying Test

At this point I might say that a number of years ago I personally made a test of the egg laying quality of the Reds together with White Wyandottes, Golden Wyandottes, White Leghorns, White and Barred Plymouth Rocks. The test commenced the first or March and lasted until the first of June. All the birds were, as far as I could see, in the same condition; and there were about fifty females of each breed in the test. All were under the same feed and care. The result was that the Reds laid the most eggs, the Barred Rocks second. They were 25 per cent ahead of the Leghorns and 10 per cent ahead of the Barred Rocks. At no time did the Leghorns lay as many eggs in one day, until the early part of May when the weather was quite warm, when they ran a little ahead. I then sold off all the other breeds and kept only the Barred Rocks and Reds, which I still breed, I have long since learned that "the hen that laid was the hen that paid."

Rhode Island Red Color

The continuous out-crossing and no attention being given to the selection of the females by the founders of the breed, established such characteristics along the color line that it has been hard to breed the Reds true to color. Especially is this true of the females. When I started with the Reds, I had little or no trouble in getting good colored males, but the females were extremely bad. For the first few years I could not get more than ten or fifteen per cent good colored females. This I discovered was due, to a great extent, to using males that were too dark and in which there was too much variance in shade of color between the male and females; but, by careful selection and mating male and females that were more uniform in color, very much better results were obtained. It is always safer to darken the color of the birds by degree. One of the many things to remember when we select our breeders is that an even shade of color (in the female) though lighter than we want, makes a much safer breeder than a darker female that is not so even.

Line Breeding

Careful line breeding to a certain extent is beneficial but must be done with understanding. Let us ever strive to produce even colored birds and at the same time use breeders of strong, rich red, that are full of lustre, for this is the true Rhode Island Red color. The black, which is required by the Standard, can be handled successfully, and is so done, by single matings, and right here let me say that I sincerely hope the Standard will never be so changed that it will make it necessary in breeding the Reds, to use double matings, for when that time comes we will ruin the breed.

The ticking in the hackles of the females is desired, and at the same time the male should be free from black in this section. The black in the wing is largely responsible for this ticking. I have found that mating the male with a strictly Standard wing, with females that were not so strong in this section, is the safer mating. When male and female both have an excessive amount of black in wing, we will, in nearly all cases, get striping in the hackles of the male and too much black in the female. If we watch this section closely, together with the other important ones, we can make our mating such as to produce an exhibition male and female from the same pair of chickens. If I may be allowed a personal illustration, I shall refer to some of the birds I showed at the Pittsburg show 1909. My first prize hen was, I thought, a very good specimen. She was as red as a pullet. Her weakest section was her wing, not so much black in it as we should like for a high class show hen, but her other good sections carried her through. She was ticked in hackle. I mated her last year to the first Columbus cockerel, a bird with almost a perfect Standard wing, with the result that this hen produced the first cockerel and the first pen cockerel at the same show, at Pittsburg, and two of their sisters were in the first pen and they were nicely ticked in hackles. This certainly proves to me that double mating is not a necessity.

Use Trap Nests

Trap nest your birds. Keep an accurate record of them and you will soon discover what is needful in the production of high class Rhode Island Reds. There is no breed that I know of that is so interesting to handle, or that responds to intelligent mating more quickly than does this grand breed.

Rhode Island Red Shape

While much has been said of the color of the Reds, we must not forget that it is the shape that has as much to do with the making of the Reds as their color. The shape is as distinctly their own as is their color and if you destroy that, you destroy the breed. Too often in the show room we see the blue ribbon placed on a Rhode Island Red that has a Wyandotte shape. The judges and the breeders should remember that the Rhode Island Reds are an oblong fowl and no judge that knows his business should allow any such mistake to occur. Where shape is half, a bird of reasonable good color and good oblong Rhode Island Red shape, should win over the one with the poor shape. A little diagram might help to illustrate.

- Shape
  - Type
    - oblong—not circular
      - horizontal back
    - size (full up to Standard)
      - long, straight keel
  - Carriage
    - oblong effect when in natural pose
    - bright, wide-awake, vigor
- Color
  - Brilliant red, full of luster
  - Harmonious blending of every section

  } no discolored or dead color

To Judges

Be careful how high you score a male with striped hackles. This is as hard to breed out as is white in sickle and wing flights. These are serious objections in breeding and should not be tolerated in the show room. In looking over a bird, examine every section and do not throw a bird out because he is weak in some one section. Some time ago I saw a most beautiful pullet thrown out because she had not enough black in wing. Don't have a whim. Remember that the bird has other sections besides wing. Do not be a crank on any one point, but be critical on all points. When you have considered all the points, look at the bird as a whole and see if there is that harmonious blending of color in all sections, and remember brother judges, that the best birds ever produced will not score 100, and you do the exhibitor great harm to score the birds high unless they should be strictly entitled to the score. It shows lack of judgment on your part. The young exhibitor wants a score card in order to learn something of his fowls, so give him an honest card, not one to make him feel good, simply because it is a little show and his bird happened to win. His score card is worthless unless the bird is honestly and intelligently scored.

HOW TO PRODUCE NON-FADING RHODE ISLAND REDS

IT IS THE WRITER'S OPINION THAT EXTREME MATINGS HAVE DONE MUCH TO CAUSE WEAKNESS IN UNDER COLOR OF FEMALES—ADVISES THE USE OF GOOD LAYERS WHICH HOLD THEIR COLOR WELL

C. L. BUSCHMANN

THE ONLY objection that we have ever had to the Rhode Island Red was the fading of the color of the female after it had passed the pullet age. There is apparently no reason for this and it is difficult to account for. Brown Leghorns do not fade nor do black hens; why should Reds? When we stop to consider that a red cow or a bay horse holds its color why should not a Rhode Island Red hen hold hers? Any live stock turned out in the hot sun during the summer months will get sunburnt, which slightly changes the color, but they always shed this coat and their natural color returns in winter.

When we first discovered that several hens two years old in our flock of Reds had held their color, the thought came to us that it was possible to build a strain of non-fading Rhode Island Reds, so we began to experiment and observe. The second observation was that some of the chicks from these hens held their color also, so we commenced to breed for this particular feature and have built up our non-fading strain practically from a few hens, but it has taken much time and careful study. The males usually held their color and by introducing the new blood through a female bred to our best male and then using the young cockerels of fifty per cent original stock, we kept the strong male line intact and continued breeding from the same hens and pullets.

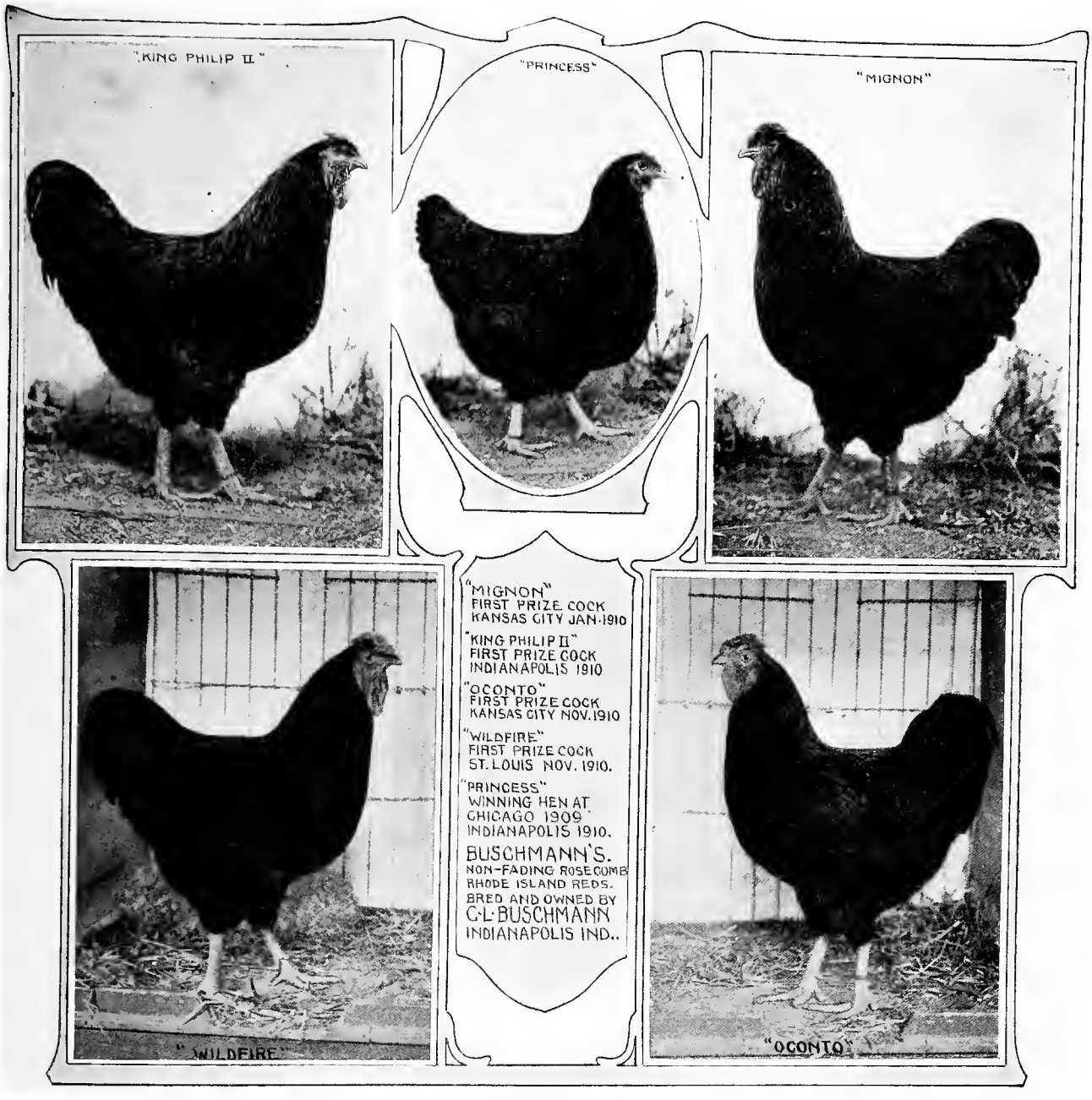
Size, shape, color and laying qualities are always considerations of the first importance. We now have a hundred or more birds that have held their color, only changing a little during the burning summer days and under the heavy laying strain of our breeding season. They always return to their natural color after moulting and we believe in a few more years that we shall be able to raise practically all of our birds so that they will be non-fading.

We are careful at all times not to breed females which show signs of not holding their color and which are not laying properly. These hens are sold for market purposes and not sent to some other breeder.

Right here we might mention that a five or ten dollar bird is often eaten rather than sold at a fair price, because she would make a poor advertisement when pointed out, in some ones' yards as a "Buschmann Non-Fader."

After the Chicago show, December 1909, we had the pleasure of traveling to New York with the late Mr. Tuttle and Mr. Coffin, secretary of the R. I. Red Club of America. Mr. Coffin told us he had a hen several years old that looked like a pullet and that other breeders also had a few but they apparently never thought of building up a non-fading strain.

This is one of the side-lights on the Non-Fading Rhode Island Reds, never before published. While we do not claim that every bird of the twenty-five hundred we are raising this season will be non-fading, we know a large per cent of them will be. We are satisfied that we are on the right road and in a few more years will be able to accomplish that



which so many breeders thought impossible. With this accomplished, the Rhode Island Reds will be in a class by themselves, as the greatest fowl in the world.

One of the reasons that so many Reds fade is because the majority of the Red breeders have resorted to extreme matings, breeding a very dark male with exceedingly light females, or breeding dark males and females together, such as those that have been winning in many eastern shows. These birds are much nearer brown or mahogany in color, than brilliant red. A bird of this description bred to a lighter bird is sure to produce birds that will not hold their color; many of them will be mealy, shafty and mottled, giving the bird a very undesirable and unsightly appearance.

Through careful selections and correct matings we have accomplished what no other breeder has done, i. e., produced males and females of a brilliant, even color in their pullet and cockerel age that held that same beautiful color when they reach matured age as hens and cocks.

This has been more or less a tedious and hard undertaking and unless one feels that he can put in four or five years along this line, he need not expect to accomplish the same results.

Many Rhode Island Red breeders said the Reds could not be bred so that they would not fade, because they had been unable to do it. When we exhibited at Chicago, Kansas City and Indianapolis, as well as other shows during the past season, hens that were four, three and two years old respectively, and that had the same color that a pullet had; the breeders all began " to sit up and take notice" and wanted to know how we had accomplished this.

We have many hens in our breeding yards at this date, May first, 1910, after a hard laying season of over three or four months, that are practically the same color they were after moulting last fall. We hope to retain all of our two, three and four year old hens for next season's breeding as well as the choicest pullets that we have now in our breeding yards.

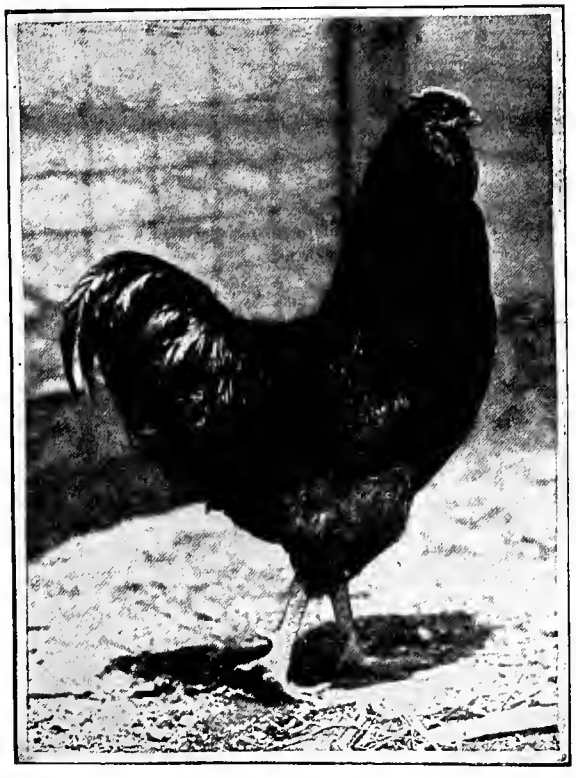
We have been offered some fabulous prices for some of our best stock at different times, but we wisely kept them and by so doing we feel that in a few more years our Non-Fading strain will be perfected and will make the Rhode Island Red one of America's foremost fowls.

PRODUCING EXHIBITION SPECIMENS

SOME OF THE BREED'S GOOD QUALITIES—DEFECTS DISCUSSED—HOW TO FEED THE FLOCK

H. C. LORD

OF COURSE we think that the Reds are the coming breed, in fact, they are here and here to stay. We consider them the most prominent breed of today. We say prominent because we think there are more breeders breeding Reds today than any other Standard variety or breed. In spite of this great advancement in popularity, there is still plenty of room for improvement. In our opinion, some of the so-called breeders are making a great mistake in breeding as they are. The longer they keep breeding those clean under-colored birds free from smut, the more trouble they are going to have with the pepper and white which is noticed so much in wings and tails, also the white at the base of the tail and hackle. With out the introduction of this so-called smut, we cannot see it any other way but that we are breeding away from nature and also from the beautiful black points which are required in the present Standard. We have the black wing and tail points almost as we want them in our Reds. Take as an example the Light Brahma. Look at their undercolor and you will see why they have such beautifully marked wings. Why? Because clean white under-colored birds are not being bred and we think if our Red breeders would use a little more smut in their breeding specimens, instead of being cranks on the clean under-color, it would be beneficial in the future. When we say breeding specimens we do not mean that our exhibition specimens should be of this description, but that they should be used only for the production of the latter.



TO-PEN-A-BEE

Rose Comb R. I. Red Cock winner of first as cockerel at Detroit, January 1909 and first as cock at Indianapolis, September 1909. Bred and owned by Irving A. and Frank C. Sibley, South Bend, Ind.

We also seem to be having a great deal of trouble with the judges about the color question, some of them preferring the lighter shade of red, while others prefer the darker shade and it seems that in order to be able to select a winner, we must know who is going to be judge so that we can select a color to his liking; consequently we think the sooner we decide upon a certain shade, the better for all concerned. We shall then try to show color that is pleasing to all and not to some one individual.

Then again, some look for color only (both judges and exhibitors) and pay no attention whatever to shape. We may be wrong, but our idea is that we want shape, and more of it, first of all, then, after we get the desired shape, let us get the color.

The Color Question

As for the color question, we think a good many of us will have to cull more closely than we have in the past, although it is true that some of those off-colored hens are producers of good specimens; there are also many that are not.

Our idea is that we can get a good even color in our flock only by breeding from those that best retain their color through the breeding season, which we think a great many of our best breeding specimens are doing, and it will only be a matter of a few years more when those off-colored and mottled specimens will bid us their adieu.

One thing we should remember is, not to sell these non-producing birds to the novice and tell him they will produce good results, when we know they will not. Use them either for home consumption or for commercial purposes.

Good Qualities of the Breed

We have given the above subject more time and space than we intended so will "start to finish" by giving you an idea of some of the good qualities of the breed we all love so well.

The Rhode Island Red is a fowl that will answer any poultryman's purpose. They are a very hardy bird which means a great deal, as the losses by disease are very few as compared to the more delicate breeds.

Another point in their favor is that they mature very early, and if forced for laying will commence to lay at an early age. They are of good size, are one of the breeds for egg production and not inclined to become broody as early as most of the other well-known heavy breeds. If they are used for brooding they are the best of mothers. What more can we ask for in the way of a commercial fowl?

Ideal Bird for the Fancier

As a fancier's bird they are unsurpassed. My reason is that a genuine fancier wants something that will take intelligent breeding, time and good management to produce the best. This the Reds certainly do require. If you doubt this, just breed them in a careless reckless manner and take note of what you have after the first year's work.

The fancier's work starts with the selection and mating of his breeding specimens and if his pens are improperly mated he cannot get good results from them. This is something that a study has to be made of before one can

say confidently, that his pen or pens are going to produce good results. We have taken particular notice of some pens that were mated this year by a man supposed to be a first class breeder of Reds and as we had an opportunity to handle all the birds in those pens, we could see that they were mated on what might be called the "hit or miss" plan. They all had different markings; one hen would have a good wing without any ticking in hackle; another would have no black at all in wing and no ticking; some with good wings, hackles and tails; some with pepper and some with clean under-color; some with smut, and of different sizes, but in most cases they were all of a good, even surface color. Now do you think that this breeder had these pens mated as they should be? If you do, we will say frankly that we do not and we consider that he had no definite object in view other than if he happened to get a few good ones it was all right or if he missed it, it was all right.

He did not use trap nests and was unable to tell the dam of any of the chicks. Such methods will never produce the desired success and such a breeder will have to keep buying his winners as this breeder has done in the past.

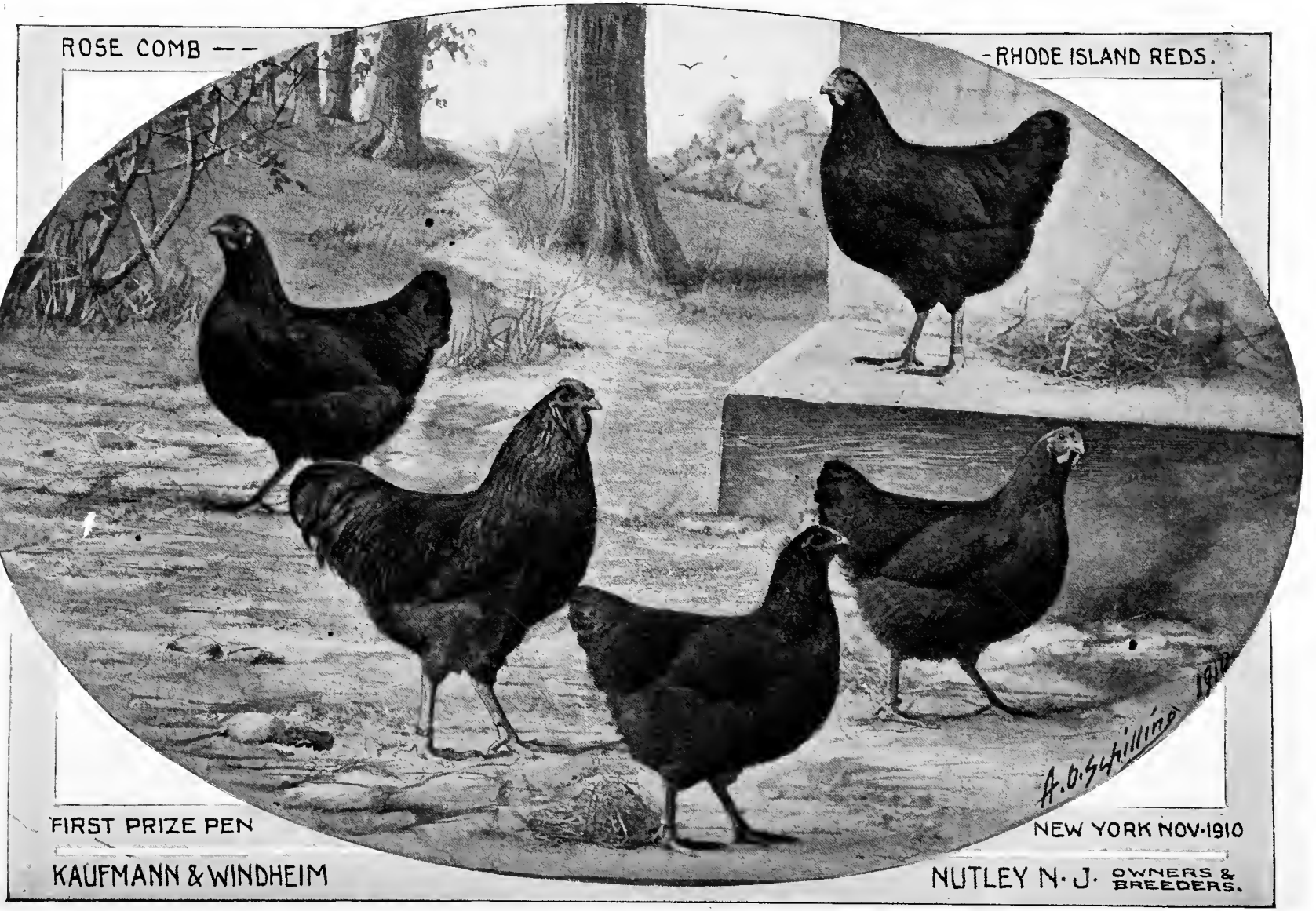
Last season (1909) was a very trying one for poultrymen owing to the long spell of damp, rainy, cool weather we had in the spring. But, if the youngsters are bred right, and fed right, have plenty of clean water and clean quarters, are not crowded, and kept free from vermin, one's troubles are few.

Hatching and Feeding

Most of our chicks are hatched with hens and we have to watch closely for our dreaded enemy, the louse, especially the head louse.

The hens, when set, are put in pens by themselves away from the laying stock so that there is no danger of other hens laying in the nest with them, causing eggs to get broken, etc. They are well dusted when set and the treatment repeated every week. The chicks are left in the nest until 36 hours old when they are taken to coops which have been previously arranged for them. These coops are well cleaned having had a spraying of kerosene oil, then placed in the sun to dry, after which they are placed where desired, depending a great deal upon the prevailing weather. The floor is covered with chaff for the chicks to scratch in and it also makes the floor easier to clean. Before putting the chicks in their new home they are greased with a little lard, which is used sparingly, on their heads and under the wings. The hen also is given another good dusting. Now that they are in the coop a little chick grit is thrown in the chaff. Their first feed consists of the yolk of hard boiled eggs, then they are fed rolled oats for the first few days, every three or four hours. They are then put on chick feed, much care being taken not to overfeed. The chicks are kept confined to their coops for three or four days when they are allowed to run in a small yard in front of their coop for the next week. After that, the yard is taken away and they can run where they please, but the hen is kept confined in the coop until the chicks are large enough to do without her. At this time we begin to feed cracked corn and wheat. We also keep a dry mash composed of 200 lbs. bran, 100 lbs. middlings, 100 lbs. corn chop, 50 lbs. sifted ground oats, 50 lbs. beef scrap, 25 lbs. linseed meal. This is thoroughly mixed together and kept before them in troughs made for the purpose. After they are two months old we feed scalded oats once or twice a week. We keep them separated in lots of about forty or fifty and we also separate the sexes as soon as discernible.

The breeders are fed twice a day, morning and night. In the morning we first water all the stock, then they are fed what we call a good scratch food. Their evening meal, which they get about 4 o'clock, consists of equal parts oats and cracked corn and about once a week we add to this one part wheat. They have free access to beef scrap, grit, charcoal and dry mash at all times. This mash is composed of the following: Two parts bran, 1 part middlings, 1½ part corn chop and 1 part hulled oats. Green food of some kind is also fed quite frequently. We do not feed for a heavy egg yield as it is hard to receive a good percentage of fertile eggs when this is practiced.


ROSE COMB ——
—RHODE ISLAND REDS.
A.O. Shilling 1910
FIRST PRIZE PEN
NEW YORK NOV. 1910
KAUFMANN & WINDHEIM
NUTLEY N. J. OWNERS & BREEDERS.

THE COLOR QUESTION

COLOR OF RHODE ISLAND REDS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE BUT MAKE SURE THE FLOCK IS NOT PERMITTED TO DETERIORATE IN SIZE WHILE KEEPING UP THE COLOR—BOTH ARE IMPORTANT

KAUFMANN & WINDHEIM

AT THE present time, there seems to be much discussion in regard to the proper color of Rhode Island Reds. Nearly every breeder has a different idea as to the proper shade and the quicker the breeders all come to one understanding the better for the Reds.

Many writers, breeders and judges claim that shape makes the breed, color the variety but in Rhode Island Reds such is not true. If the birds are minus the color they are certainly not Reds. It makes but little difference how poor a shape you get, if they are red, the most you can say is that they are poor shaped Reds. The ancestors of every great show bird that is in evidence today were birds of great color, and it is color that every breeder is looking for, whether he be a large or a small breeder. Shape is a great thing we admit, but how many good shaped birds do you get from a flock, and how many poor colored ones. Therefore, we make the claim that color is the cue and color it must be to make the Rhode Island Red the most beautiful and popular breed of the time.

Viewed from the standpoint of sixteen years of careful breeding and studying we find that there are about eighteen different shades in the male and about fourteen in the female that are all red, but each one a trifle different. That leaves about nine hundred and ninety nine other shades that are to be found in this breed that are not red.

With so many shades you can readily see why so many breeders are divided in opinion on the one right shade.

In all our showing having come in contact with all the breeders of note in the country we have found but very few who are in the right boat. This proves to me that through this vital point—color, that the Reds are at the mercy of the thousands that are breeding and showing them.

The breeders must wake up to this fact and buy only the right kind, breed only the right kind, and sell only the right kind or the R. I. Red will become harder to breed and harder to sell. We know this is a hard rule to stick to but we must all try to live up to it as near as possible.

Surface Color

To begin with the plumage must be dark; most everybody knows that but here is where the trouble lurks. The dark dirty, musty chocolate color, is not red, neither is the dark dead appearing color red, but the kind of red we want is the bright but rich, deep looking, with plenty of strength and of the lasting kind. Both in female and male this is true as the female is just as important as the male in the breeding yard.

The color must be uniform, must be even with no light straw hackles; with no two or three shades on the surface of the male; he must have the solid black tail that sets him off. We must work up on the wing question, get the black, but get it in the right place. Never breed from a bird that shows the slightest touch of peppering in the wing bows as that is a very bad feature. A bird with this defect will throw at least ninety per cent of the chicks full of black.

Under Color

Last of all but most important—under color. It must be red as the day of smut has passed. Many breeders think smut helps to get the rich surface color but they are sadly mistaken. Smut will help you to get a dirty dark surface color, but not the clean rich shade that we are after. A smutty feather here and there will not do very much harm but if a bird shows smut so strong that you cannot look at the undercolor without seeing it, discard such a bird at once.

Mr. Breeder, smut will not help but it will do harm, so cut the bird heavily that has it, no matter how good he may be otherwise. It is worse in a male than in the female.

White of course is out of the question, as a bird that shows white, no matter how perfect he may be otherwise is simply a cull. This we think most every breeder knows.

Through all this color madness, however, do not let your birds run down small but keep up the size because color and size make the Rhode Island Red and no matter if you should have all the other qualifications combined you would have nothing if these two are left out. We have followed the above laws as closely as possible over sixteen long years and the record that our birds have made in the show room is well known to every Rhode Island Red breeder in the country.

R. C. R. I. RED COCK

THE PROPER MATING OF RHODE ISLAND REDS

A SYMPOSIUM—SUCCESSFUL BREEDERS OF THESE POPULAR BIRDS TELL BRIEFLY THE SPECIAL POINTS THEY SEEK TO HAVE IN THEIR BREEDING BIRDS AND THE FAULTS THEY AVOID—MANY VALUABLE SUGGESTIONS ARE MADE THAT WILL AID BEGINNERS GREATLY

Geo. P. Coffin, Ex-Secretary-Treasurer Rhode Island Red Club of America, Maine

IN MATING Rhode Island Reds for the production of prize winners, the same rules regarding shape and size should be followed as with other breeds. Particular attention should be given to constitutional vigor, without which the birds cannot attain the symmetrical form and standard type that is desired in the show room. The bird of perfect color should not win if lacking in vigor and the ability to reproduce his kind.

In the selection of a male to head the pen, see that his head is masculine in appearance, with comb and wattles fairly developed but not beefy, with bright red eyes, and stout beak of medium length. When handled the bird should show strength of muscle, evidenced by the elasticity of the wing when quickly unfolded, and by a vigorous kick when grasped by the shanks. Such a bird will usually resent any intrusion upon his flock, whether of man or beast, and the possession of this stamina usually characterizes the bird that is capable of fertilizing the eggs, as well as being prepotent in transmitting to his offspring his own shape and color.

In the selection of females, look well to shape and size, and above all things, avoid breeding from immature pullets. Select the females that have a long back and long keel, and shanks of medium length. The body should be broad and the tail well spread, not only as a requirement of the Standard, but because it is indicative of the proper development of the organs of reproduction.

While the foregoing are general rules, as applying to all breeds, none of them should be disregarded by the breeder of Reds who is striving for improvement.

As regards the color question, our present Standard is sufficiently clear for the careful breeder to use as a guide, and generally speaking, a pair of Standard colored Reds should produce their equals in color. There is no necessity of "double mating."

With the progress the breed is making, and the increased number that are exhibited, the judges are getting better informed, and the judging is becoming more uniform. But just because a male happens to secure first prize, it does not follow that he is the proper mate for the first prize female, as the same defects may appear in both.

The male should be of an even shade of dark red with under-color free from white or smut. Look carefully to the under-color of neck and saddle. White in these sections means a fading of color that will show disastrously in the progeny. Avoid the male whose breast feathers are shafty —the quill lighter than the web of the feather. This defect will be emphasized in his pullets. Particular attention should be given that the male has good wing markings with the black in lower web of primaries, upper web of secondaries and entire wing-coverts, but is free from black in wing-bows. The Standard calls for the same wing markings in both sexes, but usually they are not so pronounced in the females and cannot be obtained in the chicks of either sex if the sire is deficient. It is highly important that the main and sickle feathers of the male's tail should be black or greenish black if we are to breed those black-tailed females required by the Standard.

With such males as described above, we mate females of as even a shade as possible, relying somewhat upon the law of compensation to remedy minor defects of color, but never mating extremes in color. Attempting to correct the color of the chicks by mating a dark male to the buffish females usually results in chicks of unsound color, with shaftiness and mealiness as prominent features.

Some undesirable features that should be avoided in any mating are white in any feather, black in wing-bows of either sex, white or blue eyes and white in ear-lobes.

Line breeding is the key-note of success with many breeders of other varieties, and the careful breeder of Rhode Island Reds who secures good specimens for starting his line and practices line breeding will find it of great advantage.

By close attention to the few details here enumerated, the breeder of Reds can improve his flock. In our own birds which we have carefully bred for twelve years, we have practiced line breeding and the very careful introduction of new blood from reliable sources, keeping a record of the matings, toe-marking the chicks and making a rigid selection of the breeding stock, and each year we can see improvement in their markings, more uniformity in their appearance and their utility qualities have never suffered.

Irving A. Sibley, Indiana

We do not practice double mating and always endeavor to have females in our pens that are exceptionally strong in the points where the males are weak and vice versa.

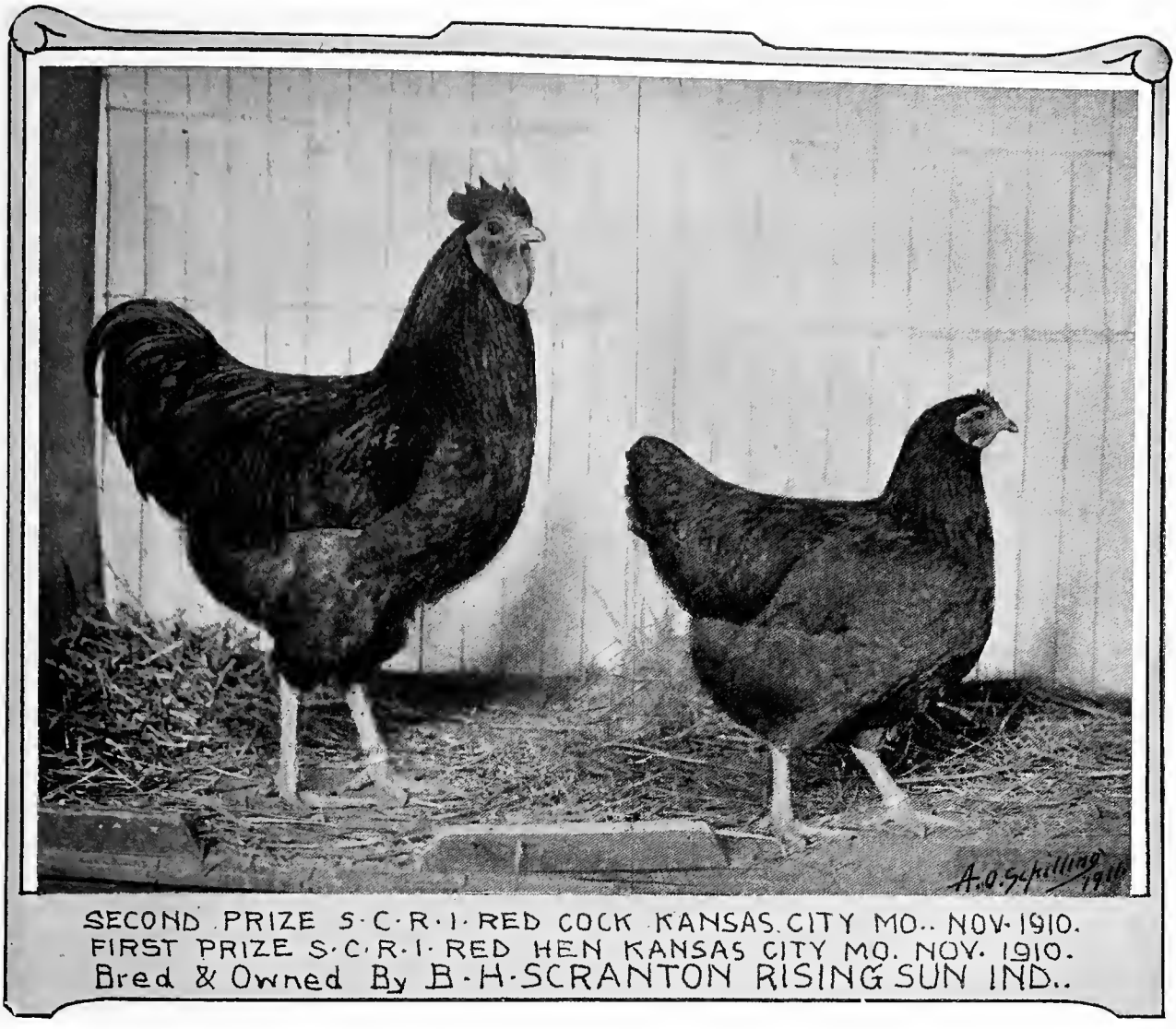
Select for breeders birds that are as nearly perfect as you can get. We have found that yearling hens, that is, birds coming two years old, mated to strong, vigorous cockerels produce our best stock. One advantage of this combination is we have a larger percentage of fertile eggs earlier in the season than if pullets are used. We never breed from birds which for any reason would be disqualified, no matter how good they may be in all other sections.

Myron B. Seward, Ohio

Rhode Island Red pullets, like those of other breeds, retain their full brilliancy of plumage until after they begin to lay, but after reaching full maturity they lose a little in show quality, therefore it is best to hatch at intervals during May, June and July in order to have birds that are just right for the December and January shows.

For the dams I have the best success with hens that have retained their color, selecting those that have long backs and low combs. Discard the hen with the high comb unless your male has a very low one. With the "permanent" red color, long backs and low combs as a base to work from, we can select for red eyes and tail and wing markings. It is the better plan if you are trying to bred birds for exhibition to use only three or four birds which have these qualities than to attempt to breed from any that are lacking one or more of them.

The male to be mated with these birds should be a cockerel in order to insure vigorous stock. His surface color should be one even shade from comb to tail. He should not have a straw hackle, a dark back and then another color. Some breeders match their hens to the color of the breast of the male. Extremes in males and females produce mot-



SECOND PRIZE S·C·R·I·RED COCK KANSAS CITY MO.. NOV·1910.
FIRST PRIZE S·C·R·I·RED HEN KANSAS CITY MO. NOV. 1910.
Bred & Owned By B·H·SCRANTON RISING SUN IND..

tled, uneven shades in their progeny. Harmony in color and no contrast should be kept constantly in mind.

After the surface color is decided upon then the head and tail points should be considered next. A "bottle green black tail" is Standard. Purple tailed cockerels should be discarded unless the bird is exceptionally good otherwise or if the females have tails that are strong in black coloring. A low rose comb and red eyes are desirable, but if the females already selected have these some of the progeny will also have them. Many breeders overlook the high rose combs of their females and get a sponge-headed bunch of males in the fall. A number of prominent Red breeders wish to have the rose combs lower. A coarse head ruins the appearance of an otherwise beautiful bird. Slight smut in under-color in male is to be condoned more than white in the hackle, as the former will moult out while the white will increase.

Breeders should not be discouraged if they cannot find birds that possess all the Standard requirements. The striving to obtain these birds furnishes the pleasure in breeding. I think anyone can establish a strain of his own by breeding from his best stay-red hens year after year, selecting the most nearly perfect specimens each year. A more uniform flock results than by mixing several strains together. By careful selection one can establish a blood line of his own in five or six years. What is back of a bird counts. A short cut to exhibition stock is to get blood lines from yards that you can visit or from breeders that you know have the birds.

I am positive that long back females will give their progeny, both males and females, long backs. I cannot see anything mysterious or secretive about mating. Breeders and raisers of all animals and plants produce by selection, taking what comes nearest Standard or their ideal.

I have taken females having good wing and tail markings, but with a little smut in under-color and on shoulders and mated them with a trifle lighter colored male that had a pedigree back of him and got some of the best females I ever produced. The males were not good, however.

I have heard experienced breeders say certain males were great pullet breeders only, or vice versa, and I think this may be so in some cases; but I have had a male throw fine pullets one year and both fine pullets and fine cockerels the next year, when mated differently.

If I wanted a certain point, say wing markings in females, I would select females with wing markings, even if defective otherwise, and would feel sure of getting a few females with wing markings that were also nearly perfect otherwise, being a blend of the two sexes.

Keep the fowls happy, always eating, and if they get tired of one feed or combination get them something different. My best exhibition females are my best layers. If they are not thrifty, their feathers lose their lustre. A real Red, which is red, is one of the most beautiful as well as profitable fowls in existence and when blood lines are once established a flock will produce as large a percentage of show stock as

any other variety. I personally know this to be true of several flocks. As a final word, let me again caution liberal feed, range and good care, as many a white feather is due to injury or lack of vitality. Be sure also to have the roosts so arranged that the growing tails do not touch the walls.

Mrs. F. W. McIntyre, Iowa

The Rhode Island Reds have a host of friends who admire them for various reasons. The time has been, but is passing, when the farmer could see in them only vigorous market birds of a size conducive to activity and of a shape adapted to productiveness and the fancier could see only the rich colors and the beauty lines. Poultry shows and judging schools are making fanciers and practical poultry breeders of us all.

There are two ways of breeding the Reds—outcrossing for size, shape, vigor and productiveness and line breeding which adds proper color and makes of the utility bird a prize winner. Line breeding does not take away any of the superior qualities of the utility fowl until some novice runs it into inbreeding.

Exhibition color derived by an outcross is usually an accident. I do not mean to say that color alone is benefited, but the entire bird is improved. No one can establish a strain who bought his males from Tom last year, from Dick this year and who will patronize Harry next year.

When I wish to introduce fresh blood into my flock, I purchase as good a male as I can find from a well-established strain foreign to my own and mate him to a pen of hens calculated to give the best results. The following year I choose the best offspring from this pen, both male and female, and mate them to birds of my own strain. I may get good results from this outcross, but I am sure to reap a big reward the second year.

Instead of buying a male I may purchase several females, sisters preferred, and mate them to one of my male birds. I believe I get the best results from the new male, owing to the fact that breeders are loth to part with their best females.

There is a tendency to cater to the beginners' demand for dark colored birds by mating to produce browns and mahoganies, for unless it is extremely dark in color the novice fears the bird is a buff. From striving for lengthy bodies many strains incline to game shape and Leghorn tails.

The color craze has given us many small sized birds brought about by late summer hatching and inbreeding. One aid to establish a non-fading strain is to use matured birds which faded little or none with their first moult. It will then not be necessary to say as so many do, "Oh, you would not want my old hens, they are so faded, but having had such fine color as pullets, they are invaluable to me as breeders."

ROSE COMB RHODE ISLAND RED COCKEREL
WINNER FIRST PRIZE KANSAS CITY SHOW NOV. 1910.
Bred & Owned By Mrs. F. W. McINTYRE. RED OAK IOWA.

The faded hen may produce good colored chicks, but if they fade as she has, how are you going to establish that non-fading strain for which we are all striving?

Alfred G. Clark, Ohio

For the past eight years we have been breeding Rose Comb Rhode Island Reds on Ridge View Farm. Appreciating the usefulness of this breed in its ability to produce eggs and at the same time make a pot roast at the end of its active existence, we have paid particular attention to the practical end of the breed and it has been our endeavor to produce full bodied birds with an increased egg capacity and at the same time retain strength and hardiness by avoiding inbreeding as much as possible.

First of all we must have type. Without type we have nothing. The great mistake in the past has been that both in the show room and in the breeding pen more attention has been paid to color than to the proper type. The amateur breeder has been led astray by seeing blue ribbons hung up on so-called Rhode Island Reds of good color, but with the type and shape of either a Wyandotte or a Rock. In fact, so much has been said about color that a good colored bird sells for a large sum, even though the only thing to distinguish it as a Rhode Island Red is the fact that it is red.

In the beginning, to get type we were careful to take long, square bodied females, mating them to males of square, blocky shape; and to do away with what is known as smut or barring we first bred birds of clear under-color but of what possibly might be called too light surface color. These produced chickens that were darker in surface color and retained the clear under-color. We then mated to females of this type a male of deeper color of great evenness, both surface and under.

This produced for us an average amount of both good colored males and females. There was a tendency of course to throw back to the light colored birds, but we have been able, by mating moderate colors every year, to get what might be called an even colored flock. All this time we have been giving particular care to the comb, eyes, wing and tail markings, however, always retaining type. We have found that no matter how good a bird is, if she has a weak eye, she is likely to reproduce this fault and therefore particular care should be used in breeding birds with good red eyes. Nothing so mars a Rhode Island Red as to have it yellow eyed or to have what is known as fish eyes. The wing and tail markings are the last perfection to look for.

Another thing which we have found to be of advantage now that we have established a good even type and color, is to try some what we call "chancy" matings—that is, using females that are barred, and by barred I do not mean smut, but I mean dark bars across the feathers in the undercolor,

the quill being perfectly red at the base. Such females, having good wing and tail markings, we have bred to males with good wing and tail markings and of even surface color, but possibly a little light in undercolor. Last year we used a male of extraordinary good surface color and deep undercolor and crossed with him a few females with considerable barring, even to the extent of some barring on the wings. We have produced from this mating some of the finest cockerels I ever saw. The females seem to carry considerable barring, but the males are all clear in under-color and excel their sire in general qualities.

I believe the time is coming when we are going to have cockerel matings and pullet matings in Rhode Island Reds, the same as is the case in Barred Rocks. We have bred both Rose and Single Comb Rhode Island Reds and find that the Rose Combs are much harder to bring to perfection than the Single Combs. In fact, the Single Combs today are particularly easy to produce in good color. However, at the larger shows last winter the Rose Combs made a wonderful showing for color and I believe were of better type as a whole than the Single Combs shown.

The Rhode Island Red is probably the most generally popular fowl the country has ever seen. Farmers are adopting the breed and this will insure its permanency. The only danger I can see ahead for this wonderful utility fowl is that the fancier in his anxiety to produce show birds is inbreeding to an extent that will weaken the vitality of his strain and he will have a line of Reds good for the show room but not practical for the barn-yard.

I bred White Wyandottes for years and I will frankly say that I made that mistake in breeding them. I produced wonderful show birds, but when the height of my ambition was reached I found that I had a strain of Wyandottes that were delicate, without the necessary stamina, and that the egg production had been greatly reduced. In fact I had nothing more or less than birds for the show room.

If less were said about color of Rhode Island Reds and more about type, stamina and egg production, I personally feel the permanent success of this remarkable American-bred fowl would be assured.

J. F. Burleigh, New York

In breeding Rose Comb Rhode Island Reds the Standard requirements of the breed should be kept in mind when making up one's breeding yards and one should select birds from those that can be utilized that are best in Standard requirements.

I do not breed from very dark or light colored birds or practice double mating, but mate together the birds that are best in Standard requirements. Of course I avoid mating a male with females that have defects in common. As the male is usually considered half of the breeding yard, it is quite essential that he should be a vigorous, all-round, good bird without any very serious defects. I think one of the worst defects in Reds is white in the under-color. Such birds should not be bred at all. Rose Comb females are apt to be a little undersized. The Standard requires clear hackles for the male and ticking in the hackles of the females. This seems to be contrary to nature and consequently makes some culls in both sexes.

I like to get my chicks hatched in April and May as they usually begin to lay in September and continue all winter if conditions are right.

E. O. Cornforth, Rhode Island

During my twelve years' experience breeding Rhode Island Reds, I have learned that one cannot breed up-to-date Reds from inferior stock. I believe in first getting the correct shape and then looking to the plumage. Never breed from birds with short backs and high tail carriage. Select breeding birds with small combs, having the correct number of points. Avoid birds with light-colored eyes or with any trace of white enamel in the ear-lobes. I always aim to have my breeding stock well matured and not under Standard size.

Have the males an even shade of red from comb to tail with good black tails. They should be strong in wing markings, but always avoid any black in wing-bows or you will have a lot of cockerels with black wing-bows and pullets that are badly peppered. I always look well to the under-color of the breeding males and will not use a bird with any suspicion of white in hackle or over the hips. They must have dark, rich red under-color from head to tail. While some claim it is desirable to have slate on the back of breeding males, I never use a bird with anything but good, red under-color.

Always avoid using a bird with any disqualifications, such as stubs on legs or side sprigs on comb. Never breed from birds with white in wing flights or in any of the tail feathers for it will take a life-time to breed it out if you once get it fastened in your stock.

In building up a non-fading strain of R. I. Reds I have not bred from females that did not hold their color well after moulting. Do not use a yearling hen that has faded badly. Select the dark, even-colored birds that have held their color in moulting and beware of black peppering.

While it is harder to get the correct wing markings in females than it is in males, a good per cent of the offspring will come correctly marked if the male is strong in this section. Avoid smut or slate in the females and do not think because the male is a fine bird that any old hen mated to him will produce prize winners, for if you do that you will be disappointed.

We often hear it said that Rhode Island Reds will not breed true to color. If mated correctly and the stock is well bred, they will throw as many exhibition birds as any of the American breeds of fowls. One cannot throw his birds together haphazard and expect good results. You must study your birds and breed only from the best if you would pro-

duce birds approaching the Standard ideal and flocks that show an average yearly improvement.

F. E. Harrison, Michigan

The mating of R. I. Reds is a study that has given their admirers a task that is anything but "mere boy's play." Naturally the first thing that the amateur does when beginning to breed Reds, or any other breed of poultry for that matter, is to get the Standard and use it as his guide. It is the correct thing to do, but the Red Standard to the inexperienced breeder has its disadvantages as well as its advantages.

The Standard calls for the primaries and flights of both sexes to be evenly laced with black and for a black tail and slight ticking in the neck of the female, but no black in the neck of the male and no slate or smut in the under-color of either sex. To get the black in a R. I. Red where it should be without any slate or smut showing in the under-color is a difficult task and one that forces you to go against the laws of nature. When we eliminate the smut and slate, the sections that should have black have no dark under-color to feed on, making it most difficult to obtain the desired results. Personally I do not object to slate in a well-shaped female if she has a good comb and is good in her black points. I mate her with a male that has good rich under-color. The best results I have ever obtained came from a union of this kind. I have seen breeders cast out some very good females that had smut, while the birds that took their places in the yards were, in my judgment, of less value as breeders than the condemned birds. The average birds have a tendency to run to dark color in both male and female. One should never use dark chocolate colored birds or dull dark brown ones. I have seen pens of buff females mated with a dark red male, which is also a serious mistake.

"ROYAL RED"
FIRST PRIZE WINNER, MILWAUKEE . JAN 11-15-1911 .
WINNER OF SECOND KANSAS CITY, NOV. 29 TO DEC 3, 1910
F. E. HARRISON. MENOMINEE. MICHICAN.

S. C. RHODE ISLAND RED COCKEREL

Avoid extremes in color and have the male a bright, brilliant red, not too dark, and select one that harmonizes in all sections. The females should match the male's breast in color as nearly as possible and the result will be more satisfactory than if dark smoky Reds were used or the breeder resorted to extremes in color.

I advocate the single mating system in Reds, as both males and females of the highest exhibition quality can be produced from one mating if the breeder understands the correct color and his birds are of a good line-bred strain. If the birds are not line bred, disappointment is sure to follow and an uneven flock of off-colored birds will be the result.

I have bred Reds for eight years and enjoy the work of building my flock up as there is no other breed that appeals to me as this does. It is my honest belief that they have no equal as all-purpose fowls. In mating the pens for the breeding season it must be borne in mind that the female regulates the shape and size, but we must look to the male for vigor and color. The nearer we keep to these requirements on both sides, the higher the average quality of the offspring. The male being half of the pen, he should be as near Standard as possible. He should be healthy, vigorous and some especial attention should be given to him, for if he is too gallant to his mates he will starve himself and thus be impaired as a breeder.

I am well satisfied with the Red Standard as it is today and while I think the Reds are handicapped more than any other parti-colored fowl, it makes them a more interesting study and the birds command higher prices. There are so many good points about the Reds that they are bound to make friends and hold them. I think any Red breeder will agree with me that a Red chick from the time it is hatched until fully matured can stand roughing it more than any other fowl, as the vitality of the Red chick is wonderful. It is my belief that the time is not far off when the R. I. Reds will be the leading all-purpose fowl.

Badger Poultry Co., Wisconsin

Having been requested to describe briefly our method of mating and some of the special points desired in our breeders, also some of the defects to be avoided, we will endeavor to point out the desirable and undesirable qualities which we have encountered in the breeding of Rhode Island Reds.

In mating a pen which we expect will produce show specimens, we prefer a cock bird mated to hens. Of course this is not always possible. However, we have had better results in the matter of size from such matings, although a cockerel mated with hens produces as good results as a cock mated with pullets.

In selecting our birds we look first at the male. He must be large and vigorous, of as rectangular a shape as possible with a long back, full breast, red eyes and clean cut head carried well up.

Next we look to color, which we prefer to be as nearly uniform as possible. The darker the better, provided it is a rich deep red. We always avoid a tendency to brown or smut, which we consider very bad, especially in the male bird, also white in any section.

We especially dislike a pinched tail and choose always a well-spread tail, the blacker the better. A small edging of red on tail feathers does no harm. Next we look at the wings. The upper web of the secondaries must show black strongly, while the same is true of the lower web of the primaries. The under-color should be a rich salmon red to the skin and no ticking should appear in the hackle. From such a male bird we expect blue ribbon winners, provided, we have mated him to females answering the following description.

The females must have size and shape. Their shape and size is really of more importance than that of the male. They must have good eyes and head points with as even a color as possible, avoiding chocolate colored necks. We look for females with strong wing markings, even though they show a little smut in the wing-bows, but we cull out the ones that show smut in the back. Look for a good rich under-color with fine ticking in the hackle. If a breeder mates ten or twelve females that are as near this type as possible with a male like the one described above and does not look for prize winners scoring one hundred, we believe that he will not be disappointed with the results.

We have been breeding along these lines for a number of years, always avoiding extremes in males and females and we have built up a strain that is highly satisfactory to us. Each year our young stock far surpasses that of previous years. The present season we have fewer culls than ever before.

T. L. Ricksecker, Kansas

The mating of R. I. Reds to produce blue-ribbon quality might well be likened to the adjusting of a 23 jeweled watch. Having had some twenty years of experience in the latter work and eight years in the former, I believe I can safely say the reason there are not more high-class Reds raised is the neglect of detail in the selection of breeders. It would take some time and money for me to start with a seven jeweled watch and begin to rebuild it by adding more jewels and adjusting it till it would compare (if it ever could) with a high-grade watch of known merit.

So it is with the Reds or any other breed. You can never get quality from dunghill stock and you would better save yourself the endless work and expense which is sure to follow if you try to do so. Start right with a few birds of good quality of a strain that has been carefully bred by a successful poultryman for a number of years. Then by careful study and selecting birds as near Standard requirements as possible, you can win that place at the top of the ladder which is open to all.

I could fill many pages with my experience with the many matings which I have followed closely, but will suggest a few "Do's" and "Don'ts" to follow in the selection of breeders, which I believe will prove beneficial.

Do select a male with a good head, one that is bright, alert and active and be particular about the comb, to see that it is firmly set on the head and that the serrations are well defined and stand straight. The comb should be of medium size, fine texture and thin blade.

Don't use birds with coarse, beefy combs or one that has thumb marks or that lops.

Do get a bird with bright, prominent eye, the redder the better.

Don't use a male with wall or fish eyes or that has a dull, listless expression. See that the ears are red.

Never use a bird that has disqualifications, such as stubs, sprigs on comb, enamel white ears, squirrel tail or one whose wing flights do not fold up well—described as slipped wing. Of course the progeny will not all follow any one of your breeders, but if you wish to advance you must have a good foundation, so it pays to look well to these details.

The color of the chick is influenced by the sire and the shape by the dam. Shape is of great importance in maintaining the sterling qualities that the Reds have as a utility fowl, and it is as necessary to keep its type distinct from other breeds as it is to preserve the color. This, however, does not mean that we are to be indifferent to the color of the female. She should be a good, even red. The better the color, the more certain you can be of the chicks. Do not use male birds that have much contrast in hackle, back and saddle. Try to get the color from head to tail blended evenly and of a deep, brilliant red. The more luster to the plumage, the better. The under-color of both should be a deep, rich red that looks clear and free from a muddy reddish shade.

When it is necessary to use a bird that has some undesirable points, be sure that the other sex is good and strong in these sections. By such methods one can usually overcome such faults. There is another very important point and that is to keep the breeders in the best of condition, for this has a great deal to do with the vitality of the chicks. It makes no difference how fine a parentage there is behind the birds, if they are in poor health, the chicks, as a rule, will be a disappointment. Having your breeders well mated and in good health is the first half, the other half is for you to raise them properly and give them a chance to reward you by bringing home the blue ribbons.

M. A. Smith, Pennsylvania

There are some faults that must be overcome in breeding R. I. Reds, such as mealiness, chocolate color and the different shades of red from buff and straw color to mahogany that appear not only in the same breeding pen, but sometimes in the same hen.

The principal fault, I believe, lies in adding new blood. Numerous ways have been advanced through the poultry papers of adding new blood which may be safely followed, but I will state that line breeding will have to be practiced. To use a male bird in your breeding pen from unknown breeding will break up your color lines. The R. I. Red is practically a new breed and only a few of the most noted breeders have followed line breeding long enough to establish color with any certainty. The difference of opinion among fanciers and judges as to the correct color has confused many breeders. Different fanciers have established different shades of red in the flocks, which makes it uncertain what the color will be when you add new blood from unknown breeding.

The best plan is to obtain breeding stock from strains whose color has been established by line breeding and then further establish the color by line breeding yourself. Of course care must be taken in the selection of breeders. Avoid extremes in matings. Do not breed from very dark cocks unless they are perfectly sound in under-color and free from smut or white at the base of the tail. Do not select light colored females, for this will produce chocolate color and mealiness, but select medium colored females, being careful that they are strong in the sections where the male is weak.

Pages could be and have been written about the color of R. I. Reds, but shape must not be overlooked. It should be considered first. If your breeders lack in shape you would better cast them aside if you expect to produce fancy birds and obtain stock from those who have established the correct R. I. Red shape. It will take years of careful mating to build up shape and it will save much valuable time and money if the beginner starts with correctly shaped stock.

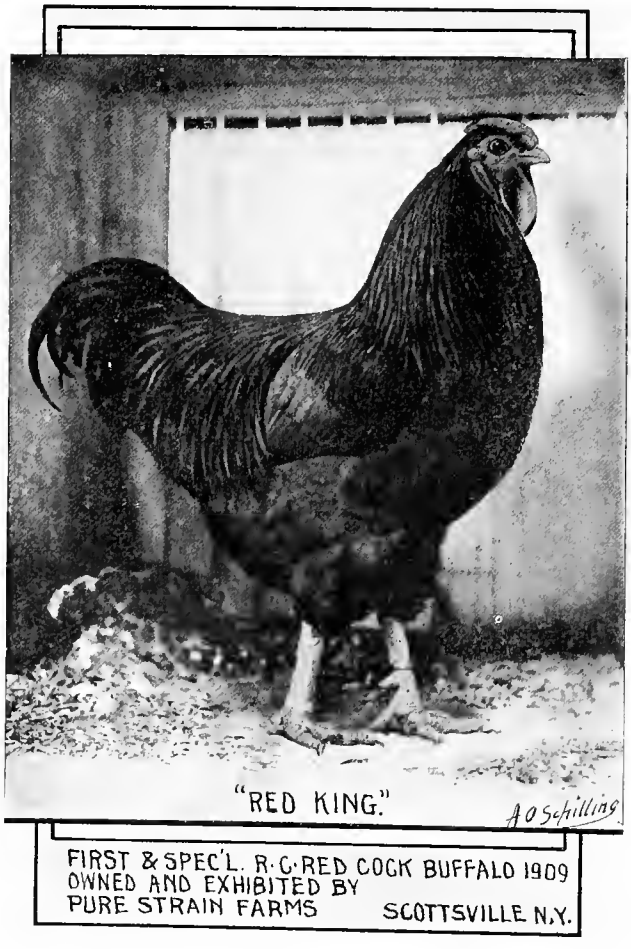
I would suggest for the good of the R. I. Red—the most beautifully shaped and colored fowl, either for the show room or for the utility yard—that every breeder for the coming season should select his birds with more care, cull harder and throw out any doubtful specimens. Do not fill your breeding pen with doubtful birds, but breed from those that are of the right type and color, even if you have to mate in pairs or trios. In this way you can keep the record of your breeders and follow line breeding from year to year and so be enabled to climb to the top.

C. W. Augenstein, Supt. Pure Strain Farms, New York

As the male is half of the pen, he should have the first consideration. Naturally we select a male that is as near as possible to Standard requirements, but he must be a good, vigorous bird, for if he is not full of vim he is not worth much and should not be used as a breeder. We are very careful not to use a bird with light eyes or white in the earlobes, as such defects never improve, but grow worse every year. We prefer to select a bird that is fairly good in all sections rather than one that is very good in one or two sections and away off in others. The good average bird will make the better breeder and you will get better results than if you go wild over a nice back or comb or any other particular section.

We are not particular about having a bird of great size, but we want a bird up to Standard weight. We believe that we get size and shape from the female and color and vigor from the male. It pays to select a male with a generally good disposition and one that handles himself well. A judge seldom passes this kind of a bird in the show room without giving him a place and such a bird always makes a good breeder as he is usually kind to the females. Our experience teaches us that we will get a better percentage of fertile eggs from this kind of a male than from one that is always cross to the females, keeping them from their feed, etc. We also find that this kind of a bird is apt to produce his like in the young stock.

When ready to select birds for mating, round up the males and select all the medium dark, even-colored ones that have good under-color and good wing and tail markings. Out of these select the best shaped birds. Use the long-backed ones with a nice carriage of tail. Avoid using extremely high-tailed birds, as this is a serious defect. A good many fine birds are not placed at some of our best shows on account of high tails. Such a tail surely spoils the appearance of a good bird, After you have selected for shape, surface color, under-color, wing and tail markings, then take the birds with the best combs.



If you do not find among your male birds one with the qualities herein mentioned, you would better purchase one that has these qualities from some good reliable breeder. Be sure to purchase a bird that has good breeding behind him and you will have one that is worth breeding. We would advise using a slightly inferior bird of a good strain rather than to use a better one from a poor strain. These accidental good birds never produce anything like themselves and it is a waste of time and money to breed them.

Select females that in color match the breast of the males as nearly as possible. Do not have too much contrast in color or you will not get any good colored birds. Have the females particularly strong in the sections where the male is weak, except that extremes of color must not be mated. If the male is weak in comb, have the females strong in comb, etc. Mating in this way we get better chicks than the parents

We tried the following experiment last season: A dark cock was mated to two hens of light color. The result was that we got uneven colored chicks, not one of them fit for breeding purposes.

We also mated a very good Rose Comb cockerel, about as good a bird in color as we ever saw, but he had no spike on his comb. We mated him to two very fine pullets that were a perfect match in color and exceptionally strong in the comb where the male was weak. From this mating we have a fine lot of youngsters and it proved to be the best mating we had last season. The young birds resemble the parents very much, except that the young birds have very nice combs—as good as the average that you would get from a pair of birds, both of which had good combs. So pleased were we with the result of this mating that we shall use it again next year.

D. W. Rich, Iowa

No one who takes notice of the wide-spread popularity of poultry shows, both in this and in foreign countries, can fail to perceive what a great and dignified business the production of exhibition birds has come to be. It is attracting people in all walks of life as a healthy, fascinating and profitable employment.

The fancy poultry business depends chiefly upon the intrinsic merits of the various breeds of fowls. Beauty alone in a breed is not enough to insure it a high and permanent rank as an exhibition fowl. In addition to beauty there must be native qualities of practical value and usefulness. In these characteristics the Rhode Island Reds are now decidedly in the lead, and as exhibition fowls they have on that account a great future before them.

There are a multitude of little details connected with the task of raising an exhibition Rhode Island Red, and most of them are understood only from experience. Aside from these daily cares, which commence when the chick first opens its eyes upon the world and end when it stands in its coop, beautifully groomed, waiting for the blue ribbon, there are a few important principles of breeding which the fancier cannot know too well. Good buildings, ample range and proper care are essential and play their part, but the first-class show specimen must, after all, get its good markings with typical shape and sound color from a well-bred ancestry.

The fancier should also understand the difficulties that confront him, and know how to overcome them and how to attain desired improvements in the breed. I am convinced that the most difficult problem in breeding fancy Rhode

Island Reds is the matter of producing the right color. Shape or type is more easily acquired, is better understood, and is less likely to be lost, than color. Not that color is more important, but it is essential and cannot be ignored.

It is in a way unfortunate for the Rhode Island Reds that they became popular so suddenly. The demand for them is so great that many incompetent breeders, sacrificing the purity of the breed for insignificant private gain, introduce into their flocks, and put on the market, birds that are wholly unfit to be used as breeders. The consequence is that with so many undesirable and inferior birds in the breeding yards, the difficulty of breeding Rhode Island Reds true to type and color is thereby immeasurably increased.

The importance of good breeding in trying to produce exhibition Rhode Island Reds can, therefore, not be too strongly urged. A bird descended from ancestors having no uniform type or color, without a doubt will produce a flock as varied in color and type as the birds that constituted its family line. "Like begets like," is a familiar rule, but it should be remembered that in trying to reproduce a certain bird, you have to contend with what precedes both male and female. But good points are transmitted as well as bad ones. If the ancestors were uniformly good, the offspring is certain to be as good, and, in the hands of a skilled breeder, better. Typical and Standard birds are not produced by chance. They are the result of careful and scientific breeding, continued year after year, perfected by slowly improving section after section. Characteristics acquired in this way and transmitted from generation to generation, become fixed in the breed and are easily transmissible. A good wing marking, for instance, that exists in a marked degree in a family for a long time is so fixed that it will continue to appear unless stopped by an indiscriminate cross. The wisdom of looking into the family history of a bird intended as a breeder of exhibition quality is then clearly recognized. Always ask the question, "Whence comest thou?" The bird should possess blood transmitted by a long line of ancestors that were free from undesirable traits. The value of a bird as a breeder does not consist in what it will score, but in what it is able to produce.

Having decided that the bird is well bred, the next thing to consider is its shape and color. The bird coming nearest the Standard requirements is the one to select, and this applies to color as well as it does to shape. I believe there should be no difference between the color or type of a breeder and that of a Standard or show bird. Standard males and females mated together ought to produce exhibition birds. There would be no occasion for double mating if matings were made up in this way. Double mating must eventually be detrimental to the breed. We must never lose sight of the relation existing between the exhibition bird and its less handsome but productive kin. It is only by reason of the popularity of a breed as a utility fowl that the show bird has an existence. A breed first establishes a reputation as a utility fowl, as a money maker and as a fowl that may be easily bred by the beginner and the non-expert. It is then possible for the breed to become popular as a show fowl. This precisely has been the history and course of development of the Rhode Island Reds.

Now if the color of Standard Rhode Island Reds is to be different from that of the bird used as a breeder, if the farmer, the non-expert and the small chicken raiser, are compelled to go to the trouble of keeping two or more matings of birds of various shades of color to produce a few right colored birds, if the difficulty of breeding Rhode Island Reds is increased by double mating, the value and popularity of the breed must necessarily be diminished. And that is not all. Double mating can never settle the color question. If we must use as breeders birds that are not Standard, we can-

"RED WING"
A.O.Schilling 1909
FIRST & SPEC'L PRIZE S·C·R·I·RED C'K'RL. BUFFALO 1909
FIRST & SPEC'L AT ROCHESTER 1909. Property of
PURE STRAIN FARMS SCOTTSVILLE N.Y.

not hope that a large per cent of their progeny will be Standard. Go and look over a flock of Rhode Island Reds, and you will find that some of the birds are light in color and others are dark. This is a fault that everybody notices. Double mating perpetuates this fault, because from breeders some of which are light and others dark, it is only possible to get light and dark colored birds.

On the other hand, if we mate Standard males to Standard females and continue this method by judicious line breeding for a number of years, until the color becomes reasonably fixed, why will we not get Standard birds? Why will the flock not be more uniform in color and in type? Why will not the quality of the color be infinitely improved? The aim in mating Rhode Island Reds should be to produce a flock uniform in color, whether the birds are intended for exhibition or for utility purposes. To accomplish this it is necessary to discard breeders that vary in shade of color, birds that are too light or too dark. Get them as near Standard color as possible. Judges and fanciers understand color better every year. While there is still a difference of opinion as to what constitutes Standard color, this difference will adjust itself in time. It is not improbable that in the future a color that is a shade darker than that considered right in the past will be adopted. Experience shows that a rich, deep red color is not so likely to be lost by fading as the lighter shades. An extreme dark color, however, such as is now fancied in certain places, will never gain universal favor, because of its damaging results in breeding and because it lacks the most significant quality of red color. It is dull. It lacks brightness, richness, brilliancy. These attributes red color must have. And, excepting the tail

which is black, the color must be so even or uniform from hackle to saddle that when the various sections are compared, the effect is harmonious. The undercolor needs less attention and will in most cases be good where the surface color is bred as above described. Poultrymen with practically not a single exception, have very decided views on the matter of undercolor. All demand that it be a clean, rich red and that is as it should be.

When it comes to body shape, it is necessary to point out the horizontal back, and the length and depth of the body. Like understanding red color, it is only after careful reading of the Standard with wide experience in observing good specimens in the show room, that a clear conception of Rhode Island Red shape can be acquired. The matter of shape is by no means merely a fancier's hobby, or a breeder's talking point. It is a characteristic of the breed that must be bred and maintained if we expect the Red hen to hold her enviable record as a great egg producer. It takes a certain shaped body, in a cow, to make a good milker. A hen to produce lots of eggs must have a framework adapted for that purpose. It requires a body that is long and deep to produce eggs and such a body we find in the Red hen. So while to the laying Red hen this peculiarity of the body means great egg producing capacity, to the exhibition Red it means rare physical grace and beauty.

Improvement and changes in the breed in the past have not been general and along the same lines; consequently Rhode Island Reds do not possess the desired uniformity in type and color. But with a better understanding of Standard color and shape, breeders will hereafter build up the breed with practically one ideal in view.

For the last two years we have directed our efforts toward improvement of the comb in both male and female. We have not done so at the expense of shape of the body or color of the plumage. These always receive our first consideration. We have not specialized on comb with the idea that it is the only essential part of a chicken, but we have learned that the comb is a very important section. We have found that buyers of high-class breeders and of exhibition birds invariably ask for good combs. We have found also that whether a bird is used as a show fowl or is sold with its score-card, it is a big loss to have the bird cut from two to three or more points for a bad comb. The truth is this significant section has been generally neglected by the average breeder.

When you look over the Rose Comb Rhode Island Red class in the show room, where the best specimens raised are to be seen, you will find that there is a great variety of combs. You will find probably as many types of comb as there are exhibitors. You will find broad combs, narrow combs, smooth combs, combs covered with small points, high combs, low combs, and when it comes to the spike and the shape of the comb, there is also a great variance. This great fault in Rose Comb Rhode Island Reds is very noticeable when compared with some of the other Standard-bred fowls, the White Wyandotte for instance. The combs in this breed are apparently quite uniform. All appear to have been bred after one model, and I have always admired this feature of that breed.

The modern poultry show is a great reformer. Competition there is weeding out the ugly comb and is opening the eyes of breeders to the proper type of comb for Rose Comb Rhode Island Reds. Good combs are not the result of chance, but are produced by mating both males and females which possess good combs.

The type of comb that we admire and that we consider Standard is a comb rather narrow and low, having the top covered with small points. The smooth comb is quite popular and is very common, but strictly speaking it is not Standard. The surface on top should be covered with small points. The top is oval in shape and tapers gradually to a point or spike. The sides and top should be regular in form, free from depressions, such as holes and other irregularities. It is very essential that the comb and spike fit nicely over the head, curving with the shape of the skull and neck. A spike turning up and away from the neck is very objectionable, and we never use a bird with such a comb as a breeder.

The results of breeding for better combs for the past two seasons have been beyond our expectations. Out of over a thousand chicks raised this year we have a very small per cent of birds with bad combs, and the number of really good combs is large. Considering the value and beauty an ideal comb adds to a bird otherwise good, we intend to take still greater precaution the coming season to eliminate the objectionable features of the comb.

Our experience is that very striking peculiarities of comb are likely to be transmitted to the off-spring. We have a hen with a large prominent comb. She transmits her type of comb to both cockerels and pullets. Their combs and the comb of their mother are identical. Last year we used a cockerel having a large broad comb, and his cockerels all inherited his type of comb, but the pullets have combs like those of their mother. We had a male a few years ago that for color could not be surpassed, but he had a very ugly comb. We mated him to females having good combs. While occasionally a fair comb could be seen in his chicks, most of them had combs that were as bad as their sire's, and they were consequently valueless as fancy birds. We have found that in order to make lasting and substantial gains in the matter of breeding for better combs it is necessary to start with a mating in which both the male and females have good combs.

Another section that we often find faulty in a large number of birds seen at poultry shows and birds used as breeders, is the eye. Weak-colored eyes are quite common. By strictly discarding all breeders with any but red eyes, one can build up a strain with excellent colored eyes.

A thing about Rhode Island Reds which we have not seen mentioned in poultry journals, but which we consider important, is the matter of the legs. We like a bird well up on the legs. We do not want a leggy chicken, but we do not regard a low-down, short-legged Rhode Island Red as Standard. The Standard description and the Standard illustrations give us a bird well up on the legs. We have found breeders who disagree with us in this matter, and we find not a few birds that we consider too low. But a long, deep body on short legs looks unnatural. Grace and beauty require more length in the legs. We believe the Standard calls for that sort of a bird.

As a show fowl the Rhode Island Reds are yet in their infancy. Handsome as they are now, they are susceptible of great improvement and progress. The lines of advancement for some time will be not a change from, but rather an attainment of the present Standard. With imperfect specimens to work with, the producer of exhibition Rhode Island Reds will not attain the desired improvements in a single season; but if he loves his work and understands the art of breeding, with a perfect Standard as a guide, he will in due time perfect what promises to become the most popular breed of fowls in the world.

Kaufmann & Windheim, New Jersey

It is essential that a beginner who wishes to breed Reds should start with a strain of birds from a breeder who has bred them in line for a number of years, so that he may be sure the right kind of blood is back of them. It is useless to try to mate a pen of Reds and expect good results if you

mate them merely by their appearance. Buy the right kind of foundation stock and pay the price.

Buy birds of good color. Do not pay much attention to the man who talks shape, for the chances are that his birds do not come up to the mark in color and he talks shape in order to get rid of his buff colored Reds. We would say color first, last and all the time, because color comes from good careful breeding and shows "class." Shape, although a good factor, comes many times through luck. The minute you have learned that you have raised a good bird or two, do not begin to advertise that you have the "world's best." Try again the next year and again another season until you know your birds, so that you can advertise and give your customers birds of breeding instead of an accidentally good bird.

Again we say, look after the color. They must be red. Have your male as large as you can possibly get him in the right shade of red. Be sure he is not chocolate color or a dark dirty red. The color must be rich, bright, clean and lustrous. It must be clean to the skin, showing not a trace of undesirable smut or what is sometimes called slate. No bird can prove a good breeder, in the long run, with this dirty color hid beneath his surface.

The Standard says, "No smut" and it is cut in the show room. It is a great drawback. Why then do some breeders use it? Because for a time it gives them dark but dirty dark surface color and they are ignorant as to the proper shade. Many judges are also in the dark and give some of these short-lived breeders a share of the ribbons that they do not deserve, thus giving the exhibitor an idea that he is on the right track when in reality he is ruining his chances for a successful future. Steer clear of this danger of smut breeding. When we say that color is a great factor we do not mean only surface color, because we believe under-color to be as important as outer color and it means a great deal to have it right in the foundation stock.

Regarding the male, look for shape and size. Get as large a bird as possible and naturally as well shaped a bird as you can that has the so much talked about proper color. A good full-sized comb is desirable—one that sets well on the head, but it should not be too large. It is in regard to the black points that the experience of a breeder is put to the test. The question is how to breed to get the right markings in the right place. Before looking at the wing, select a male with a tail as near solid black as possible, as the tail of the male counts more than the wing. You want a wing that has strength of color and it should be marked to the tips of the flights. Be sure there is not a single trace of white or gray on any single feather, for it would be the ruination of the flock. If you can get a male such as we have described, you will have a so-called perfect one and he would be worth at least $2,000, but you need not expect to get such a one. We are only trying to make clear the points breeders should be careful to examine. First count color, then size, then shape, being particular about having a long back. Then consider the black points. Get the color right and then the other qualifications as near right as possible. If you are breeding rose combs, try to select birds that are long in leg. A nice comb and a red eye are both desirable, but not so important as other points.

When selecting the females consider color again first. They should be dark, rich and of the lasting kind. Those that fade in color should be discarded. A pullet that fades before she is a year old is of no use as a breeder. The females show more shades of red than the males. It would be necessary to have a bird before us in order to explain clearly the proper shade. It is impossible to do it in print, though we will say that the color should be darker than a cherry and lighter than chocolate. The quills should be the same as the fluff of the feather and not be either darker or lighter. While the surface must be dark, it must be lustrous and must not be a "dead" appearing red. The hackle should be dark with plenty of stippling, for too much is better than not enough. Size is quite important, in fact we should say very important, more so than in the male. Try to get females with long backs and those that are well set up on their legs; a good full breast and a good keel. The wings should have plenty of black, but they are very hard to get, so if you cannot find them do not worry, but try to get birds having black tails, but if you cannot get black in the tail then try for black in the females next year. Try to select females with good heads. In rose combs try to get those with raised combs instead of very low, flat ones. It is desirable to have birds with red eyes, but if they have not and have other desirable qualities, use them.

Last of all, but most important, consider the under-color. It must be clean, free from smut and not real light buff. It should be deep red right to the skin. When you have picked out birds as near right as you can get them, watch the results and try the following year to rectify the

mistakes of the present. Do not hesitate to pay a good price for a good bird or two if you need them to strengthen your flock. Learn by experience what you need and then get it. Then show your best birds, win all you can, advertise, but do not claim to have the "world's best," when you win at a state fair. Just advertise that you have good Reds for sale that have been carefully bred and send them on approval. You will be on the right track and if you stick to it in a few years you can go to New York and Boston and win and you will deserve the spoils.

Do not figure on a bird that makes a great showy appearance, as much as the one that handles the best. If a bird does not show the proper shade do not consider it at all. Beware of smut and run from white. There should be no white in the ear-lobes, no crooked combs, no red tails, no pale legs. See that the legs are deep yellow or horn colored. Try for nice heads. Consider the head only in detail. Shape makes some breeds, but it does not make Rhode Island Reds. Color is the cue and color it must be. Let them come big because little hens, as a rule, do not lay big eggs nor hatch chicks that make big broilers, roasters or show birds. For over sixteen years we have carefully followed the above laws of breeding with results that are well known.

R·C·R·I·RED PULLET WINNER AT CHICAGO 1910.
FIRST PRIZE, SHAPE AND COLOR SPECIALS.
BRED AND OWNED BY,
MALTBIE & SHELLEY GENEVA OHIO.

C. L. Buschmann, Indiana

The only objection we have ever heard against the Rhode Island Reds was the fading of the color of the females after they pass the pullet age. Apparently there is no reason for this and it is difficult to account for. Brown Leghorns do not fade nor do black hens; why should Reds? When we stop to consider that a red cow or a bay horse will hold its color, it seems strange that a R. I. Red hen should not hold hers. Any live stock turned out in the hot sun during the summer months will get sun-burned, which changes the color slightly, but they always shed and return to their natural color in winter.

When we first discovered several hens two years old in our flock of Reds that had held their color, the thought came to us that it was possible to build a strain of non-fading Rhode Island Reds, so we began to experiment. We found that some of the chicks from these hens also held their color, so we began to breed for this particular feature and have succeeded in fixing the color of the hens. The males usually held their color and by bringing in new blood through a female bred to our best male and using the young cockerels having fifty per cent of the original stock, we kept the strong male line intact and still kept breeding from the same hens and pullets.

In breeding R. I. Reds, size, shape, color and laying qualities are all of great importance. We now succeed in breeding a majority of birds that hold their color, changing only a little under the burning summer days and under the heavy laying strain of the breeding season. They always return to their natural color after moulting and we believe in a few more years it will be possible to breed flocks of R. I. Reds that will all be non-fading, but to arrive at this point breeders must never use any females that show signs of not holding their color and that are not laying properly. Such hens should be sold for market purposes and neither used in the breeding yards nor sold to some other breeder. It is no uncommon thing to have served on our table a five or ten dollar bird in preference to selling it at a fair price, because she would make a poor advertisement if pointed out in some one's yards as coming from our flock.

After the Chicago show, December, 1909, we had the pleasure of traveling to New York with the late Mr. Tuttle and Mr. Coffin, ex-secretary of the R. I. Red Club of America. Mr. Coffin told us he had a hen several years old that looked like a pullet and also of other breeders who had a few, but they apparently had not thought of using them to build up a non-fading strain. We believe that breeding from such birds is the way to establish the color so that R. I. Reds will not fade with age. One of the reasons that so many R. I. Reds fade is that the majority of Red breeders have resorted to extreme matings, such as breeding a very dark male with exceedingly light females and breeding dark males and females together, such as those that have been winning in many eastern shows. These birds are much nearer brown or mahogany in color than brilliant red. A bird of this description bred to a lighter bird is sure to produce birds that will not hold their color, many of them will be mealy, shafty and mottled, giving the bird a very undesirable and unsightly appearance.

It takes time to produce a flock of stay-red birds, but it is worth it and it is what we will all have to do, and then the R. I. Red will be in a class by itself—the greatest fowl on earth.

W. F. Volz, Iowa

There are too many Reds exhibited carrying the Wyandotte shape. The Reds have a shape and type unlike any other breed. The long back and full breast, with the appearance of a slight tip forward, is desired, and must be secured and maintained. Here is where so many Red breeders are failing and unless type is given more attention by many breeders, there will not be the desired improvement in the breed. While in attendance at several shows last season we were asked by a great many breeders how we obtained those long, broad backs and full breasts. We will endeavor to explain how we have obtained our best results.

When the pullets are fully matured, we select the best shaped, as we all know it is from the females that we get this feature. We then select the best colored of these and mate them to the best colored male for the purpose; always try-

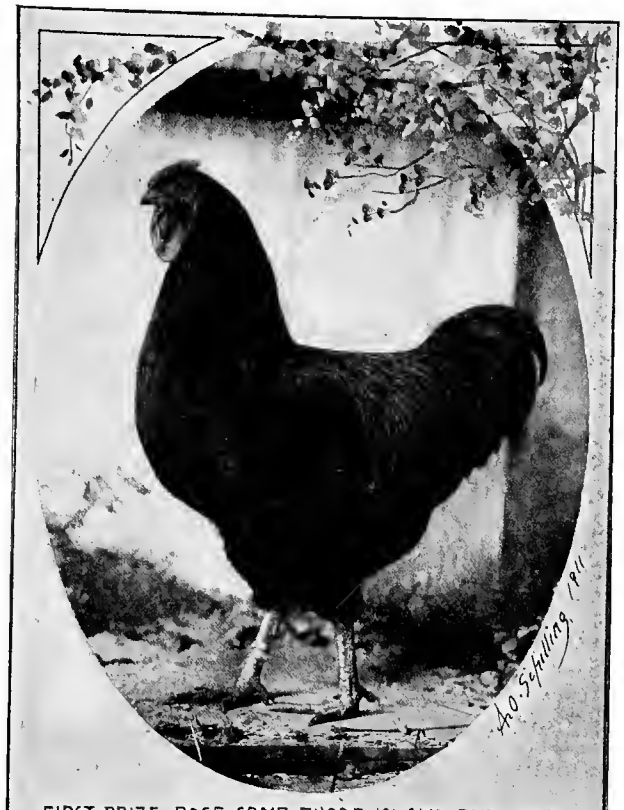
ing to get the markings in the male birds that are lacking in the females. Be sure that the male has a good, deep red under-color in hackle and saddle, red to the skin. Mating in this manner we have never had any trouble in getting good shape and we think the color of our Reds will compare favorably with the best breeders, as our old hens have as good color as the pullets.

As color is far from being entirely satisfactory at present, it is far better to maintain shape and take a little time in perfecting the color than to lose that for which the Reds are noted, and which makes them the best all-purpose fowl of today. If we lose the long back, full breast, long keel and deep wide fluff we shall soon lose that for which everyone is looking, viz.; the greatest utility fowl.

The Reds have advanced until they equal, if they do not exceed in popularity, any other breed of fowls in the United States.

Of course, it is a good thing to pay attention to the improvement of the feathers and other show points, but we must not overlook the utility side of the question, remembering always that size of carcass and egg-laying qualities are ever an important feature and that these qualities have done more than any other to secure the permanent popularity of the breed. We do not believe it is a good thing to be a crank on any one thing, but it seems as if many of the Red breeders have become so on color.

We believe by keeping up the good points of the breed, we have in them as good as the best. They have shown a great improvement during the past six years. By keeping up the utility qualities that have made them the choice of so many people who are raising poultry to make money, they are certain to stay at the top.



FIRST PRIZE ROSE COMB RHODE ISLAND RED COCK
CHICAGO SHOW DEC. 1910 Bred & Owned By
MALTBIE & SHELLEY GENEVA OHIO.

Chester A. Hartley, New York

I have noted in breeding my R. I. Reds that a cockerel very strong in wing markings mated to pullets or hens that had plenty of ticking in the neck, resulted in cockerels that had too much ticking in the neck to be of any use as breeders. Now I try to get pullets and hens with as little ticking as possible to mate with cocks or cockerels having good wing markings.

I look to the female for shape and to the male for size and stamina and also expect to produce rich red color through the male.

B. M. Billings, Ohio

I try to mate my very best birds, that is, those nearest my ideal in both shape and color, as it gives a better chance of getting what one wants in their offspring. These birds, both male and female, must have long bodies and long straight backs with tails carried well back, but not too high and they must have the best colored combs and eyes that I can get. On the other hand, if I have some excellent colored females that are rather short in back, I try to overcome this defect by mating to them a male that is very long in back and body, but never do I breed a short backed male on long backed females. You would naturally expect the result to be the same, but it has not proved to be so in my experience. The long backed male bird will produce young that are nearly all of his type and so will the short backed one, no matter how you mate him.

I want my male bird to be as nearly perfect as possible, but in case he is good in every way except that he has not quite enough black in the primaries and secondaries of the wing, I select females to mate with him that are exceptionally strong in this respect. If my male is a little weak in eye, I select females that have very red eyes. I try to balance any defects in his comb with females that are particularly strong in that section.

I want my male bird to be a brilliant red with hackle, back, saddle and wing-bows one shade of color and free from slate in the under-color. If there is anything I despise in a R. I. Red male bird, it is a light or straw colored hackle. It would be hard to mate such a bird to overcome this defect. For myself, I would much rather use a male otherwise good, but having some smut in undercolor of back.

The females are selected with as much care as we use in the selection of the male. The best is none too good. Permit me to say that while I do not pretend to know all there is to learn about the breeding of R. I. Reds, the results of my efforts have been quite satisfactory.

W. S. Harris, Massachusetts

As an all-round fowl, I believe the Rhode Island Red stands first. In their veins flows the blood of the best breeds, thus giving them all that could be desired—good size, vigor and beauty and the ability to lay a large number of nicely colored eggs. Their hardiness, their evenness in feathering while growing, and the fertility of their eggs make them a good, practical as well as a fancy fowl. Their vigor and laying ability should not be allowed to deteriorate when breeding them for fancy points.

Shape is essential and must not be overlooked. It is the long backed fowls that are the great egg producing ones. Some of the successful show room breeders of Reds prefer some smut in the under-color of the male or much black in the wings when breeding, as they are sure to get a larger per cent of show room birds.

J. Alvah Scott, New Jersey

The mating of Rhode Island Reds is not merely a question of mating a good male to good females, but it must be done more on the compensating mating principle. The strong or weak points of the birds mated, or of the parents

of those birds have a very decided effect upon the offspring.

For example, I will mention a case where I mated a moderately strong black point pullet to a cockerel that was weak in black points. The pullet's paternal and maternal male lines were all very strong in black points, whereas on both female lines the females were all weak to moderate in black points. The cockerel's paternal and maternal male lines as well as his mother were all strong black point birds, yet he was weak in black points.

The offspring of this pair of birds were strong to excessively strong in black points in cockerels and weak to moderately strong in black points in pullets. This pair of birds were not closer than one-sixteenth in relationship.

In mating up a pen of Reds, the best male at your disposal should be taken, his strong and weak points noted; and I may add that shape, size and vigor must be among his strong points.

R. C. Rhode Island Red pullet, winner at New York State Fair, owned by J. F. Burleigh. From unretouched photograph.

He should be even in color, good in under-color, the darker red the better, and free from any traces of white. Birds with very light under-color in any section should be avoided, as even medium surface color with strong under-color is preferable to dark surface color with light under-color. Dark red under-color with a tendency to dark smokiness is far preferable to light under-color. Light slatiness in under-color should be avoided.

The females should be selected for their balancing qualities. They should be strong where the male bird is weak, but like him they should have shape, size and vigor as their strong points, for an undersized or unshapely bird or one lacking vigor has no place in a first-class pen. Should the male bird be weak in black points, the females must be strong in this respect, whereas should he be overstrong, the females must not be more than moderately so. The females should be even in surface color as dark red as procurable with deep red under-color even tending towards dark smokiness. Anything tending towards light slate or white should not be used.

Rhode Island Reds should be as red as possible, but the darker that red is, as long as it retains its lustre, the better. To obtain and retain this the breeding birds must be strong in pigment value, and birds with light under-color have not this strength.

It is easy to produce medium colored birds with strong black in wing and tails, but very hard to obtain these points in a very dark red bird.

In describing the requirements of these birds, I have taken them as individuals, but if the parents of these birds are known, their qualities should be considered in making the mating, for a bird that is the result of a correction or compensation mating, although strong in points that were weak in either of its parents, should not be mated to balance similar weak points, for that would only be undoing what had just been accomplished.

Among the hardest things to accomplish in breeding Reds is to get black in the hackle of the females and still retain clean hackles in the males, and to procure strong black in the wings of females without black peppering on the outside of the wing-bows.

The Rhode Island Reds are very valuable as egg producers and market fowl, and while every breeder is anxious to produce finer birds in color and shape, he must do it along the lines of producing better fowl from the commercial or utility standpoint. By keeping up their size and shape we maintain their market value, and by keeping egg records of all females and breeding only from those that are satisfactorily prolific we can maintain this good quality of the Reds, their egg laying ability.

From year to year, it is occasionally found that a few birds will run off on some point, but otherwise are fine specimens, yet it is hard to find other birds of the same strain to mate with them to compensate for their weaknesses; then is the time to look for a bird from some other breeder, preferably a male bird which is overstrong in the points desired, and mate him to correct this weakness. It is rarely the case that the first year's results from such a mating is productive of first-class birds, it being necessary to blend the new blood into your flock by degrees through successive selections and remating.

The quickest and probably the best way to accomplish results, is to select the best pullets most nearly approaching the father and mate them back to him the next season. Take a cockerel from this second mating that is nearest to the Standard or a little strong towards the father and mate him to some of your strain while the pullets may be mated with males of your strain, mating them, of course, to balance defects.

This inbreeding will not prove harmful to vitality or prolific qualities if size, shape and vigor are always maintained, and they will be outbred again when mated up with your original strain.

There always has been and probably always will be considerable difference of opinion as to the value or detriment of inbreeding, but it certainly has value in fixing desirable points in a strain, when properly handled and care is used not to overdo it.

My main aims in mating Reds are to produce shapely birds of large size and over-standard weight, even surface color as dark as possible and still retain redness and lustre with dark under-color; strong black in wing and tail in all birds, the tail to have green sheen in males, and the hackles to have black ticking in females.

Traces of black in the hackle of very dark males is neither unsightly nor objectionable and from a breeding standpoint valuable for its effect upon the pullet offspring.

The things I find most objectionable from a breeding standpoint are light hackled males or females, light under-color, white in any section, undersize or unshapeliness or any disqualifying defect.

There is a tendency in females that are persistent layers to moult in light. Every bird that lays while she is moulting is sure to do it, and while from a color standpoint it is best to breed from females that are able to retain their dark color, do not discard a bird that was fine as a pullet just be-

cause she is such a heavy layer that she loses her color, for we must consider the egg production side if we intend to keep improving the Reds.

The old theory that the male bird gives color and the female gives shape and size is not borne out in results, and if we will consider that both male and female have an influence upon all points and make our matings with that idea in view, we will come nearer to producing what we are looking for.

A. A. Carver, Ohio

It is a great work—the proper mating of this bird of outbred origin. The words of the great Cecil Rhodes at the end of life's work are applicable here—"How little done and how much to do."

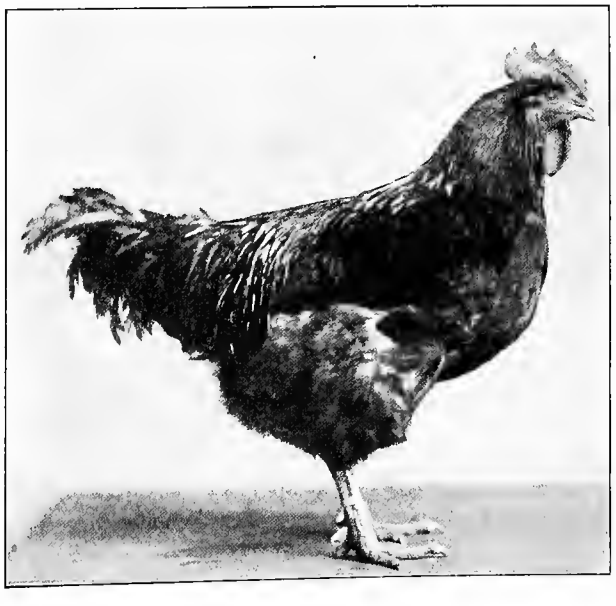
I have given this subject hours of thought and have experimented with many matings and I am very glad to tell your readers the comparatively little I have learned.

In the mating of R. I. Reds the prime requisite is color, for without color we have nothing. We find that the tendency of the breed is to throw offspring of a lighter shade of color, hence we get letters from Red breeders every little while complaining that they are getting too light colored stock from their matings and wanting a male to color them up. They seem confused, unable to understand the reason why, since they have done their utmost to mate as nearly perfect specimens as possible. To avoid this tendency as much as we can, we mate the very darkest red male we have to medium colored females. We find it is dangerous to breed very dark males to dark females or medium color to medium color as they throw the extremes. The medium, even dark, velvet red color is what we are after.

The next thing to consider is shape. In selecting our season's breeders this should always be uppermost in the mind and the best advice I can possibly give is to study the shape of Reds in the Standard of Perfection until it is photographed on your mind forever. The great weakness in shape is that we have too many high tails and short backs, therefore we use as long bodied, low tailed males as we can get.

Another point that we are all striving for is perfect wing marking, for, as a prominent Red breeder told us at the Cleveland show last winter, "the fellow who wins in the future must breed for wings." We should always strive to use males having good black or greenish black tails, and those strong in wings. The males that go into our breeding pens this coming season must have good wings. We strive also for a good comb that is as near the Standard as it is possible to get and which is thick at the base, for nowhere else does like beget like as in the comb. Use a male with as red eyes as possible and with clear, red ear-lobes since white in the ear-lobes is a Red weakness.

Above all, to make a success of mating Reds, one must study the Standard again and again. We must not allow ourselves to become a crank on this or that point and forget the other points, but we must strive to have all the points good. If we find we are weak here or there, we must repair the weakness by using a male that is strong in the sections that have heretofore been weak, being careful to avoid a step backward by introducing unknown blood lines, for by doing so we may open the door to greater defects than the ones we wish to conquer.



"KING EDWARD"
A non-fading "Queen Quality" S. C. R. I. Red cock bird belonging to A. A. Carver, Chardon, Ohio.

Chas. T. Sweet, Maryland

It is with much hesitancy that I attempt to comply with the request of the editor to tell how I breed my strain of heavy layers. It is not so much because there is anything peculiar or mysterious about my methods—anything that has not been done with older breeds, but because apparently I am the pioneer in developing a pedigree egg strain of Reds. The other breeders of Rhode Island Reds, either by their advertisements or printed matter, indicate that they pay more attention to exhibition points than to the egg yield, and I am quite sure to be criticized by some breeders.

While I also possess many birds of beautiful plumage and other desirable Standard points, I frankly admit that however desirable these may be in themselves, to me they are simply incidental and not necessarily a part of an egg strain, neither are these exhibition qualities in my birds any more likely to be transmitted to their progeny than is the ability to lay a good number of eggs that appears occasionally in some individual exhibition bird, liable to be transmitted to its offspring. Nor will the classing of all such that are not suited for exhibition as "utility stock" improve the chances of such transmission one iota. I have learned through correspondence that comparatively few breeders care much for trap-nest records. While it is unquestionably true that Standard-bred poultry has made the industry what it is, hitherto Standard points have set the price and the price is what most of us live by, if not for, but fashions sometimes change.

A number of years ago I thought I saw a greater tendency toward the practical in poultry, or putting it another way, many practical business men were going into poultry and I felt they certainly would demand strains of fowls that would not only be beautiful specimens of their kind, but that would also give the utmost profit. I felt that the Reds being a new and promising breed offered a fine opening for improvement along practical lines. I reasoned that as concentration and specialization had revolutionized business and industrial enterprises, so must we concentrate and specialize in poultry if we expect to develop the best in any particular direction.

The Reds are naturally a dual purpose fowl, but any man who attempts perfection in both meat and eggs in any fowl is doomed to disappointment as surely as if he bred an Angus male to a Jersey cow, expecting to preserve the desirable traits of both in the offspring.

From the foregoing it will be seen that in the breeding of my Reds I have had a single purpose in view, the production of a heavy laying strain. To this end I have considered the following points: Egg pedigree first, individual vigor

second, shape and size next and color last. I have many beautifully colored birds, but they are fully as numerous in my lowest priced yards as elsewhere. In fact, until recently I had not believed it possible to produce the heaviest layers without some smut in their under-color. As to size, the best layers are below Standard weight and especially is this true of the early layers. In shape I want a rather long, broad back with a feminine head and neck in the mother. In the sire I want the long back, but a higher, more spreading tail than most breeders of Reds are working for and a broad breast, in short, a vigorous, gallant, crowing, masterful bird is what I look for in the sire.

In one sense vigor in the parent stock is the first requisite, for without vigor you have nothing to build on. In building up an egg strain one must start with the ancestral egg records, going back as far as possible, but let no one think that laying freaks will count for much here except as an impulse in the right direction.

It is a well known fact that sons more generally inherit the peculiarities of their mothers, while daughters take after their fathers, consequently in the selection of males for my breeding pens all the masculine traits, such as crowing, fighting, gallantry, etc., must be prominent. Still the most important thing of all is a good egg record running back in his family as far as possible. He must also be reasonably early to mature. Now as to the final test—is he vigorous? If not, discard him as a breeder, remembering that the male is half the flock. You would better buy a bird than run any chances of not having vigorous chicks.

One more word which relates to good breeding and knowing what you have bred. I have found that it adds greatly to the fertility of eggs for breeding to use double pens with a rooster cage over the perches. Each time you feed or twice a day take one of the males out and cage the others. Fowls, as well as people, have their favorites. I also use one male to nine females, not because Red males are less vigorous than those of other breeds, but because it pleases my patrons to get strong-germed eggs and it may save them double expressage, as I will not have to replace infertile eggs. Of course alternating the males cannot be practiced in pedigree pens where the precise parentage of each individual bird must be known, but it is well adapted to the lower priced eggs and the general breeder.

A simple means of identifying a larger number of pedigree matings than the usual fifteen toe marks is by clipping the tip of the right, left or both hind toes. This gives sixty different marks and even a pedigree specialist seldom needs more than that number in one season. Banding each season with different metals, aluminum, copper or brass, helps to distinguish the age at a glance.

Chas. C. Coulter, Indiana

I never depend on a poultry judge or the score card to mate up my pens. I cull closely and those that I retain for my own use or for sale are the best of the flock. The amateur is apt to depend on the score card to his detriment. For instance, suppose he should show two males, one that scores 93 points and wins a first prize, but has white in the under-color of hackle, white at the base of the tail or on the shoulders. The second bird scores 91 points but does not have these defects. Now the amateur would readily think the 93-point bird should head his pen, but in my judgment such a bird is worthless and I would much prefer to use the 91-point bird.

Let me give an example of faulty judgment. A few years ago while showing my birds for the first time I had a cockerel whose hackle feathers were lighter in color than his saddle feathers. If I had taken the advice of the judge, I would have repented it. He told me not to use this bird. This male had wonderful under-color and was ⅞ per cent of the blood of his sire, who I knew was a great breeder. The females I showed produced the worst kind of culls. I had one female at home, which to look at, you would have pronounced fit for market only, except that she was of wonderful type and had very smooth feathers. This female produced some wonderfully colored, rich red females of fine type, one of which could have won first at Cincinnati but was disqualified on account of a stub. Judge Brown pronounced her the finest pullet he had ever seen. The following season this same judge came back to judge our home show and pronounced the pullets from this mating the finest he had ever seen. Even if the pullet referred to did have a stub, she produced wonderful birds and no price would tempt me to part with her descendants, either males or females, or with eggs from the latter.

Each individual bird must be watched and every breeder must learn from his own experience how to pick birds of good type and color. In other words, he must train his eyes so that he will be able to discern the correct shade at a glance. The poultry judge does not know the strong points or the defects of your particular strain which must be taken into consideration when you are mating your pens, therefore you cannot depend upon his judgment. A weak point in the males must be overcome by a strong point in the females and vice versa. Use the trap nest freely and experiment with matings. I believe in matings of only one or two females with a male. Every year I make a number of matings for my own benefit in order to learn what they will produce. I believe it is possible to mate rank culls and produce stock that is valuable for next season's breeding, and for my own benefit and pleasure I always make a few matings of this kind.

R. C. RHODE ISLAND RED COCK
Winner of first also special for color and shape at Lynn, Mass., show. Bred by Chas. F. Thompson & Co., Lynnfield Center, Mass.

I like to line breed, as it enables one to produce a better per cent of good stock, but care must be taken that the largest and most vigorous specimens are selected. The trouble with most breeders is that they are too impatient. They want to accomplish in one season what it has taken other breeders several years to accomplish.

I like to plan my matings ahead as a good breeder must know the blood lines back of each individual bird in his pens if he intends to make true progress. When mating a pen select a male strong in head points, also strong and vigor-

ous in body, with good bone. If he is over-weight, so much the better. My experience in breeding live stock is that the larger the bone and frame of the male the better the offspring will be, so I would not depend altogether on the female for size. The R. I. Reds are a dual purpose fowl and the long, deep, full chests and broad, long backs appeal to the market man. The long bodied females are our best layers. Females with long, broad, deep, nicely curved breasts with well spread tails most always produce our best shaped males.

I prefer the color of the females to match the color of the male's breast, having the under-color of each blend with the other, but you cannot always depend on this. Many times a rather lightish or a very dark male will make the best breeder. Do not let a little smut or purple on the wing-bows worry you. Smut is sometimes a great color feeder. Males with well marked wings and black tails make the best breeders. In some instances I want strong points in both males and females. Breed for the rich, red males that are even in color, that have red hackles and saddle feathers, not brassy, brown or buff. Also breed for rich, red females. The best way to produce them is to use individuals that are faultless in under-color.

R. C. R. I. RED PULLET
Winner of first prize at Chicago, 1909, also shape and color specials. Owned by C. C. Coulter, Frankfort, Ind.

For the breeding of exhibition stock, do not tolerate shafty or mealy birds in your pens as this defect is hard to breed out, and you will get enough of it from the best stock. Peppering is also hard to breed out. Sometimes a smutty chick moults out and makes our best bird. Use males and females with neat combs that fit closely to the head. Larger combs produce about two single comb chicks in every sitting of eggs.

We have heard breeders claim that all rose combs will throw a few single comb chicks. I will venture to say that such breeders occasionally tolerate a single comb female in the breeding pen. I watch the combs as well as the color and type and I have had males possessing combs of fine type that have never thrown a single comb chick.

R. A. Coe, Maryland

From observation I have learned that the basis for color in fowls is good health and vigor. Birds that lack vigor produce weak offspring and such offspring will deteriorate in color as well as other qualities.

I believe in outbreeding, backed by proper selection. To establish a strain I should select both male and female with good eyes which are a sure index to health. Also should have them of as nearly correct shape and carriage as possible and with as good color as I can get in the birds that combine the afore-mentioned qualities.

In selecting color avoid mating extremes either very dark or very light. In selecting for color try to combine, as far as possible, in both sexes, good, all-round qualities, that is, do not use birds however good their color otherwise may be, unless their tail feathers are black and their wing markings as nearly correct as it is possible to get.

I have in mind a breeder who mated six pullets and a cockerel, brother and sisters. At about maturity they were considerably above the average Reds in color. Before these 7 fowls were 15 months old, the five pullets and the cockerel died of debility. They came from inbred stock. The breeder raised considerable stock from this mating and exhibited the best of his flock, January and February hatched birds, the latter part of August and they weighed from 3½ to 4 pounds each. The hen that was left out of the original mating was nearly white in color. Inbreeding produces precocity, and color in such birds is not lasting. I know that this is contrary to the claims of most fanciers, but I not only believe it but know it to be correct from personal experience, therefore I reiterate my statement that I believe in proper outbreeding.

Clinton Miles, New York

I breed S. C. R. I. Reds that lay, weigh and pay. Am pleased to tell your readers how I manage them from the shell to maturity. I generally raise about double the number I want to keep as breeders and ship to customers, so that I can pick out only choice birds.

No matter how large a flock you have, there are always some that are better than others, so I think it a good plan to raise all the chicks that one has room for. I avoid inbreeding and hatch all my stock from the best layers, using a trap-nest to discover them. In cold weather I gather my eggs every half hour and keep the poultry-house open in the front through the day. I gather the eggs often so as to keep them from chilling. They are packed in a common egg crate and turned every day simply by turning the crate from one side to the other.

When I am ready to fill my incubators, I test all the eggs with a Magic Egg Tester and place those that have the strongest germs in the trays. By following my simple way of raising chicks, I can raise ninety-eight per cent of all the chicks I hatch. I use a high grade incubator and put two shallow dishes of warm water under each tray when I put the eggs in. The 22nd day I put them in the brooders, which I have running a few days before the hatch is due.

I toast four slices of bread and boil eight eggs hard. Then I grind the toast and the yolks of the eggs in a meat grinder, mix them together and feed them to 100 chicks. When this is eaten I cut up one loaf of bread, toast it, boil 14 eggs hard, grinding the toast, egg shell, white and all and feed this to 100 chicks, a little at a time, just what they will eat up clean. After the third day I feed them prepared chick feed in a cigar box and also scatter it in the litter. After the first week we give all the chick food in the litter, and dry wheat bran is kept before them all the time. They have charcoal from the beginning and grit as soon as the egg and toast are eaten. After the second week I give them all the beef scrap they will eat and gradually decrease the amount of chick food and feed one part wheat and two parts cracked corn by measure in place of the chick food. After the fifth week I feed all cracked corn and wheat and give them free range. They get the wheat bran, beef scrap, grit and charcoal the same as before and fresh water with the chill taken off is before them all the time. They must have water.

Following is a formula of the mash I use to fatten the chicks: One part wheat bran, one part cornmeal and one part beef scrap, by measure. I keep it before them all the time; also cracked corn in a hopper. They are kept shut up one hundred in a flock and are generally fed three or four weeks.

POPULARITY OF RHODE ISLAND REDS AS AN EXHIBITION FOWL

THE FOLLOWING TABLES WERE COMPILED FROM THE ENTRY BOOKS OF NEW YORK, BOSTON AND CHICAGO DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS, SHOWING THE ENTRIES OF RHODE ISLAND REDS AT THE SAME SHOWS, DURING THE SAME YEAR

D. E. HALE

THE REDS are still classed with the newer breeds, especially when considered as exhibition fowl. We remember very distinctly the first Reds we ever saw and also the cool reception accorded them. They were called scrubs, mongrels and other uncomplimentary names, but those who had tried them said, "Never mind, their utility points will make them win out." Even the Red breeders did not have much to say about their fancy points and most of their talk dwelt on their great utility value.

While judging at one of the large western shows about the time when the Reds made their appearance, I remember that the secretary called me into the office and said: "What do you know about these mongrels of Mr. Blanks?" I told him that a neighbor of mine had some of the first Reds in the west and that I had been giving them considerable study. "Very well then," said he, "it is up to you to score that class, for the other fellows do not want to touch them."

At that show the Reds began to attract some attention and I am glad to say that they came close to being the largest class at that same show last season. As many of the Red breeders predicted, the Reds have won their way to the front strictly on their merits. I think the Reds, as a breed, have the most loyal backers of any breed in the Standard, but it will be admitted, even by them, that as an exhibition fowl it ranked low until during the last few years.

After their admittance to the Standard in 1904, breeders began to pay more attention to Standard requirements or fancy points and improvement was soon noticed. Today we find specimens of the breed that score as high as any parti-colored fowl in the Standard.

The following tables show the increase in size of the exhibitions at our most popular shows, Madison Square Garden, Boston and Chicago since 1900. They include both the Rose and Single Combs, also "Any other Variety," which included the Peacombs. The reader will note by these tables that so far as we were able to get the figures, the Rose Combs led the Single Combs by only thirty-eight birds.

Madison Square Garden

Year	Rose Comb	Single Comb	Any Other Variety	Total
1901	16	12	.....	28
1902	38	34	.....	72
1903	50	5	15	70
1904	Figures not at hand.			
1905	87	23	.....	110
1906	111	99	.....	210
1907—Jan.	88	150	.....	238
1907—Dec.	112	112	.....	224
1908-09	117	135	.....	252
1909-10	109	114	.....	223
1910-Dec	95	100	.....	195
Total	823	784	15	1622

Boston

Year	Rose Comb	Single Comb	Any Other Variety	Total
1900	49	49	.....	98
1901	57	59	.....	116
1902	72	89	.....	161
1903	55	81	13	149
1904	No show held.			
1905	80	118	.....	198
1906	45	62	.....	107
1907	65	51	.....	116
1908	65	73	.....	138
1909	34	45	.....	79
1910	69	153	.....	222
1911	51	93	.....	144
Total	642	873	13	1528

Chicago

Year	Rose Comb	Single Comb	Any Other Variety	Total
1901	13	5	.....	18
1902	51	15	.....	66
1903	53	..	.....	53
1904	9	4	.....	13
1905	42	14	.....	56
1906	38	15	.....	53
1907	58	29	.....	87
1908	58	29	.....	87
1909	184	178	.....	362
1910	166	153	.....	319
Total	672	442	.....	1114

Grand Total for the Three Shows

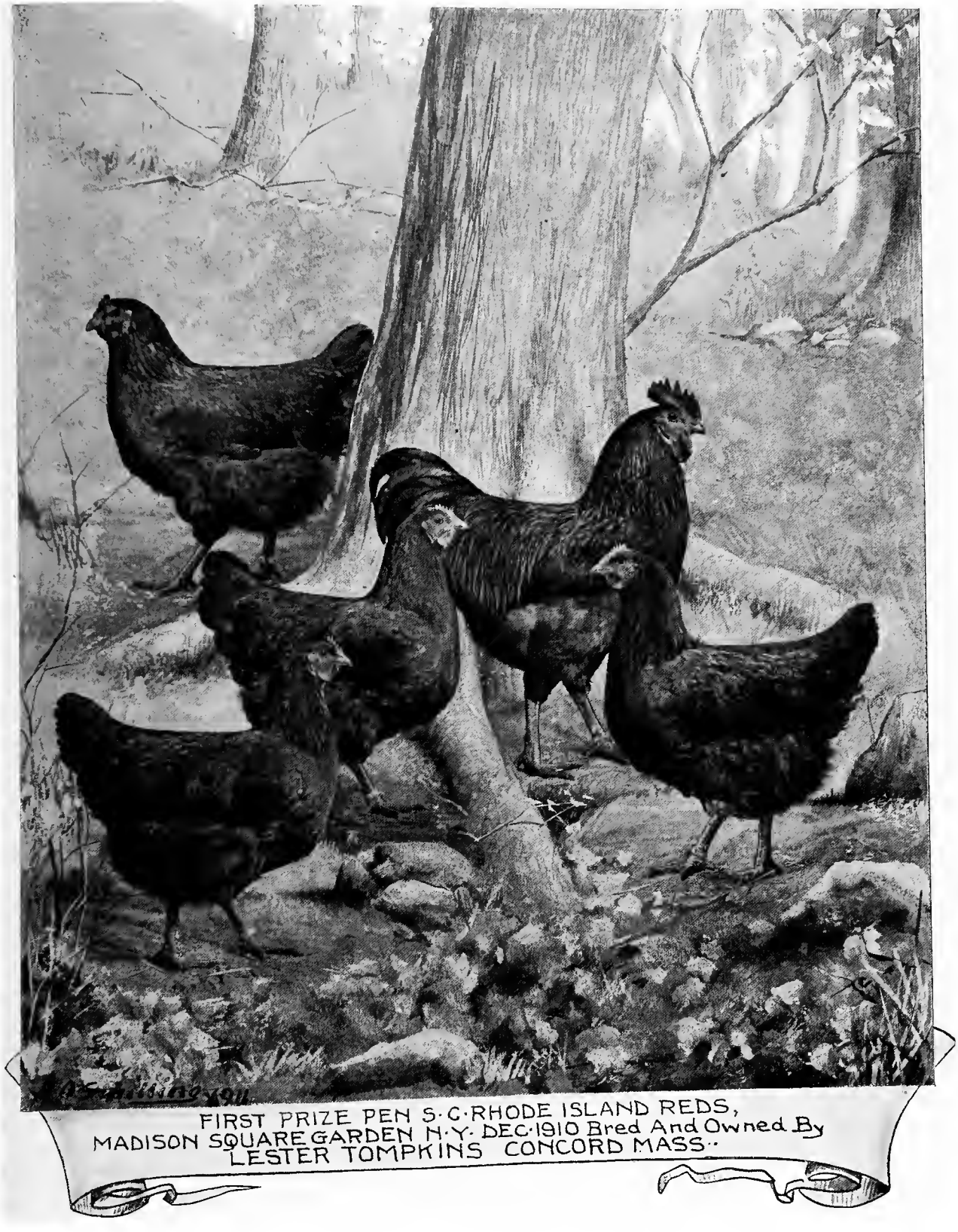
Rose Comb	Single Comb	Any Other Variety	Total
2137	2099	28	4264

At Madison Square Garden the Rose Combs were exhibited in larger number than the Single Combs every year since 1900, with the exception of January, 1907, January, 1908, December, 1909-January, 1910. and the last show, December, 1910. Since 1906 the Single Combs have been gaining slowly but surely in numbers. The Rose Combs have an aggregate lead for the last ten years of thirty-nine birds.

At the Boston Shows the Single Combs have been exhibited in larger numbers than the Rose Combs, with the exception of 1907, when the Rose Combs led. The Single Combs have a lead of two hundred and thirty-one birds for the twelve years. At the last ten shows held in Chicago, the Rose Combs have been exhibited in considerably larger numbers than the Single Combs and they

have an aggregate lead of 230 birds. From observations made while judging throughout the west, during the last six years, we would say that Rose Combs have the lead, but the Single Combs are gaining fast.

As an outsider who is not breeding either variety at present, we feel free to say that we think the interests of both varieties would be better served by having just one club. The Rhode Island Red is too good a breed to have its progress hampered by having too many variety clubs. It is not like some breeds where the varieties differ in several ways. The only difference recognized in these two varieties is the comb. It seems to us the two clubs should join their forces and push the Red breed. The records prove that the Reds are gaining in popularity as an exhibition fowl, which means they are improving in Standard requirements and advancing in popular favor.



FIRST PRIZE PEN S·C·RHODE ISLAND REDS,
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN N·Y· DEC·1910 Bred And Owned By
LESTER TOMPKINS CONCORD MASS··

PREPARING RHODE ISLAND REDS FOR EXHIBITION

DO NOT CROWD THE YOUNG CHICKS—SUPPLY FRESH AIR, FRESH WATER AND GOOD FOOD—STUDY THE STANDARD—SIMPLE RULES FOR PUTTING THE BIRDS IN SHOW ROOM CONDITION

D. E. HALE

WE DO not know of a breed in the Standard of Perfection that is as easy to fit, or condition for the show room, as the Rhode Island Reds.

It is, of course, taken for granted that you have studied the Standard or perhaps the many instructive articles in this book, so that you know the Standard requirements for a good Red. Knowing these, we should go back even farther.

The winner, if possible, should be selected, or planned for, before it is hatched. By this we mean that the parent stock, aside from being mated right, should be endowed with a good, strong, healthy, constitution. Luckily the Red breeders do not have much trouble along these lines on account of the well-known vigor and stamina of the Red mentioned before.

With a R. I. Red chick, well hatched, from good, healthy parent stock, "it is up to the breeder," or the one raising the chicks, to keep them under good, clean, sanitary conditions.

The young chicks, when raised in a brooder, should not be crowded. We do not care if the brooder is advertised to hold 100 chicks; forty in one brood is enough.

Lice and other vermin should be fought and the chicks kept clear of them.

It is being demonstrated every day that fresh air, and lots of it, without drafts, is one of the best health givers and constitution builders, that we have. Crowding should be carefully avoided, and especially at night. Plenty of fresh air, fresh water and foods that make bone and muscle should be furnished. Oatmeal, pin-head oats, bran, green food and beef scrap together with lots of exercise will produce vigor. Avoid foods that make fat.

There is nothing more enervating than a crowded, dirty coop on warm nights. Such conditions cause sweating, restlessness and not only a rough appearance but a debilitated constitution. Give them plenty of room and healthful conditions as well as growing feed, and you will have no trouble in keeping them growing.

Selecting Exhibition Specimens

Early maturity being one of the many good points of the Reds, breeders can figure pretty closely when they should be hatched to show in a certain month. A pullet will mature in from five to five and one-half months; cockerels in from six and one-half to seven months, if kept growing all the time. Cases have been reported where some pullets began to lay when less than five months of age, but this is not the general rule. A pullet is spoken of as "being ripe," just about the time she lays her first egg, and is then, as a general rule, at her very best appearance as an exhibition fowl. Her head, comb and face will be a bright, healthy, red color and her plumage will be at its brightest; her carriage will be good as she will have a self-confident air about her.

As soon as the sex is discernible cockerels and pullets should be separated to prevent cockerels pestering the pullets and fighting for favors among themselves, and both will do better. If it is noticed that any one of the cockerels is being cowed or whipped by the others, he should be placed in a pen by himself or with some younger ones, for, unless this is done, his spirit will be broken and perhaps a good specimen spoiled for exhibition. At the ages mentioned above they should be very nearly up to Standard weight which is 5 lbs. for pullets and 7½ lbs. for cockerels. The cockerel's plumage should be pretty well matured, the sickle feathers about developed, giving him a finished appearance. About three weeks or a month before the show the birds selected for exhibition should be weighed and if a pound or so light, they should be fed to put on meat. Cracked corn and boiled rice added to their daily rations with some corn meal or cracked corn added to their dry mash, if you are using one, will quickly put on flesh. Luckily the Red breeders do not have to worry about the corn being white, yellow or red, as do the breeders of some breeds.

In fitting the cocks and hens for the show there is not much that can be done except to see that they are brought up to weight and in good health, with clean head points, legs and feet.

R. I. Red hens have been known for their fading propensities and although the breeders are fast improving them, we should be careful in selecting our show birds and pick out the ones with the most even, red color. Many a hen that was a prize winning pullet will not make a good show bird and vice versa.

Cocks generally hold up

pretty well in color and it is no unusual thing to find cocks that are nearly as good as cockerels in color.

You will of course have looked them over for disqualifications. Under the 1910 Standard two pounds or more underweight will disqualify. We must remember that side sprigs on single combs, lopped combs on both single and rose combs, absence of spike on rose combs, feathers, stubs or down on the shanks, feet or between the toes, of any clean legged breed, or variety, disqualifies in the Standard of 1910. Breeders should remember that a rose comb in order to be lopped enough to disqualify must fall over far enough to come in contact with one side of the fowl's head or be so large as to obstruct the sight. The latter means from a front view. Birds with these defects should not be selected as candidates for show room honors.

COCKEREL HEADING SECOND PRIZE EXHIBITION PEN · AT BOSTON SHOW · · · · JAN - 1908 · HOUSE ROCK POULTRY FARM, WOLLASTON, MASS.

Look the plumage over carefully and see if there is to be found a feather, or two, with a bleached or off-colored tip. If found, we, personally, should not hesitate to pull it out. We are merely trying to improve the bird's appearance for hard competition and wish to present it in the best possible condition. We do not consider it "faking" for in most cases such feathers are caused by being bleached by the sun, or by an injury, and not by breeding and we do not think they would breed these defects, so we should not be deceiving a buyer or ourselves by removing them.

Wash the feet and legs with soap, water and brush. While they are still wet and the scales soft and pliable, take a wooden toothpick and remove the dirt from under the scales. Now rub on a little sweet oil, olive oil, or vaseline and rub briskly, but lightly with a soft cloth to polish them a little, and the bird is ready for the exhibition cage. It should be placed in a cage several days or a week before the show, unless it is extremely wild, in which case it should be done sooner, placing them in the cage is merely to tame them, get them used to being handled and teach them to pose in a natural manner, so that the judge will see them at their very best, and give them full credit for symmetry and shape.

If you have a good looking cockerel that looks rather cowed or brow-beaten, he should, after having been by himself a few days, be placed with some females for a day or two and it is surprising how he will fluff out, hold up his head, and appear to have more confidence in himself, which goes a long way toward success with his exhibition appearance.

Caged birds, in training, should be kept in deep litter and if any dirt is seen on the plumage it should be sponged off with clear water. Do not use soap.

If the weather is cold when you ship to the show, your fowls will not notice it so much if they have been raised on fresh air methods, but they will be in hot express cars and on cold depot platforms so it would be well to give them a good feed of chopped onions, before starting which will help ward off colds. They should not be shipped in open coops. If you are shipping in exhibition coops, see that there is a muslin curtain tacked over the front. Beware of drafts. If you are able to accompany your birds, so much the better. You should see that they have a good feed before weighing in if they are a little light, or if they are heavy see that they are weighed before feeding. Take a cloth or sponge, dampened, and wipe off the comb, face, wattles and legs. Some exhibitors use vinegar and water, others diluted alcohol, but we have found a damp sponge sufficient. If the bird is in good health, the head points will be red enough and if not, it will do you no good to try to "dope it."

Remember that all Red breeders are enthusiasts, so make up your mind to be a good loser. The Red breeders are known for being good "boosters," so do not let your disappointment at not winning lead you to say anything against your competitor if he has, by honest methods, won out.

Competition in the Red classes is pretty keen in almost every show in the country and there is only one blue ribbon in each class, so, be a good loser.

CHAPTER IV

JUDGING RHODE ISLAND REDS BY COMPARISON

HANDLING AND SELECTING WINNERS IN THE SHOW ROOM BY COMPARISON—A FINE RECORD CARD THAT COULD BE USED TO ADVANTAGE BY ALL JUDGES

J. H. DREVENSTEDT

We are very glad to be able to reproduce this article and also the comparison record card spoken of above as we believe that this is one thing that is leading us toward more uniform judging and is of great help to breeders as well as judges.—Editor.

PRIOR to the Madison Square Garden Poultry Exhibition held in 1891, at New York, the score card system was universally used at all winter shows held in the United States. In England judging by comparison has been in vogue many years, the score card method never having gained a foothold on the other side of the Atlantic. It was not practically available at the one or two day exhibitions held in England. Today at all the larger shows held in the larger cities of the United States, and nearly every other show in the Eastern and Middle States and in the Dominion of Canada, the comparison method of judging is used and bids fair to be in vogue for years to come. At the majority of the smaller shows in the West and North, the score card method is still popular and in no immediate danger of being discarded in favor of comparison judging. As to the relative value or merit of these two systems, it is unnecessary to discuss in an article of this kind. It is a subject that has been threshed out most thoroughly in the poultry press during the past twenty years and the modern poultry exhibitions clearly indicate the trend of public opinion in this matter.

Our subject treats principally on the proper handling and examination of exhibition specimens at poultry shows where fowls are judged by comparison. Some of the suggestions offered are equally applicable where fowls are judged by the score card. The object of both systems is the same, viz; to award prizes to the most meritorious specimens. By one, we arrive at this, by carefully comparing the few best specimens after eliminating the often larger number of less meritorious candidates for the honors; by the other, we score every specimen not disqualified, and allow the footings on the score card to determine the winners.

The rules for cutting for defects and scoring all varieties of poultry are printed in the American Standard of Perfection and will serve as a guide for the judge in marking his "outs" by points on the cards. These will vary according to the interpretation judges place on the various sections, which accounts for the lack of uniformity found in the scorss of the same birds made by different judges. Uniformity of judging by score card system will have to await the millenium, when all poultry judges are absolute masters of the art of scoring and their minds are working in beautiful unison.

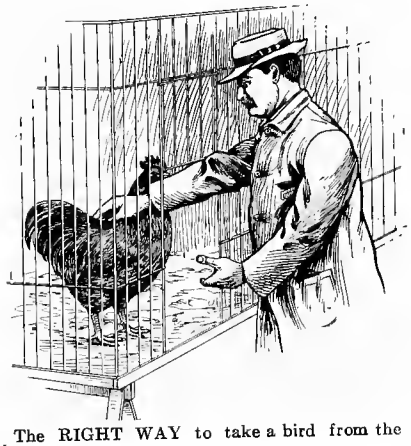
But do not for a moment entertain the idea that we believe the comparison system or the judges who apply it so vastly superior to the above as to eliminate the lack of uniformity entirely. Decisions made by judges at comparison shows are subject to criticism and judges differ in their awards the same as they differ at score card shows. Awards made by judges at comparison shows are criticised sometimes justly; at other times unjustly, and this will continue until the race of man is run. Judges also differ in their awards on the same bird at comparison shows, but not quite to such an elastic degree as at score card shows, for they are not handicapped by a system founded on theory, but must depend on their own practical knowledge in arriving at a decision.

Furthermore, this difference of opinion is confined to the winning few only and rarely extends over the many and it is this selection of the few from the many that makes the work of the comparison judge a very serious and painstaking business. It requires a thorough knowledge of the variety he is judging, a possession of confidence in his ability to handle the classes, an absolute indifference as to the ownership of the specimens and a determination to emulate Davy Crockett's advice: "Be sure you're right, then go ahead." When he gets through with the job conducted on these lines he can face the crowd and stay with it. The American poultry exhibitor is too good a sportsman to "haggle" the judge who tries to do his duty, even if he has made a mistake or two in his awards. Judges are human; consequently they will commit errors of judgment in tight places where competition is keen. The veteran exhibitor is

fully aware of this and wisely takes his medicine. The younger and less sophisticated exhibitor may kick over the traces and "say things" to the judge. If the latter is considerate of the feelings of such disappointed exhibitors he will take pleasure in going over the classes with his critics and give his reasons for placing the awards. This often buries the grouch and restores good fellowship. It is also one of the rare cases where it pays to be a good fellow.

The WRONG WAY to take a bird from the show cage.

Assuming the judge is mentally equipped for the job, the only other equipment necessary is a judging stick. The latter may be a metal telescoped two or three jointed affair, or made of two or three short fishing rod joints, or a simple round wooden stick about eighteen to twenty-five inches long. In fact any light stick or cane will answer. The judging stick is used to poke up the birds to make them pose properly in order to get at their correct shape and station. A well-trained bird responds readily to the gentle tap of the stick on the shoulders or under the chin or bill. In judging Games and Game Bantams such a stick is indispensable in arriving at the correct station or carriage of the bird. Prodding and slapping the bird gently on back, wings and stern will make it stand up and take notice. And the judge will soon notice which bird has been there before; i. e., trained with the stick of its owner to "show off."



The RIGHT WAY to take a bird from the show cage.

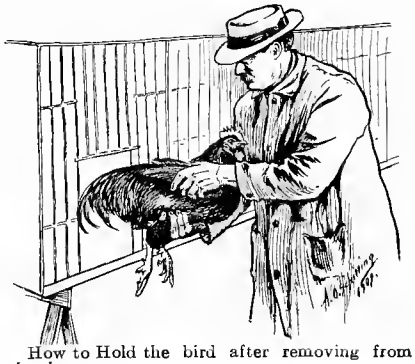
The right way to take a bird out of the cage is to gently place the right hand on the shoulder, stroking the back and grasping the left wing firmly with the right hand. Then pull the bird out head foremost. After the bird has been removed from the cage, use the left hand to hold right wing close to the body. Now slip right hand underneath the body and grasp both legs firmly in the right hand, using the forefinger to separate the thighs. With the left hand the different sections can then be spread, plumed and explored. Begin with comb and head and follow with neck, back, tail and wings. Breast and body can be examined more closely by placing bird on its sides. Mark a good bird X, a better one XX, and extra good one XXX and the best XXXX when determining color. Poor specimens can be eliminated by marking them "O," which means "Out". When the round up comes very few XXXX will be found, but these usually prove to be the winners if they "shape up" on the final handling, which is done with the judging stick. The comb often plays an important part in settling close decisions. Color points being equal, shape decides the award always. Where shape is superior and color is somewhat lacking in a specimen, the old rule, "Shape makes the breed, color the variety," must not be lost sight of. This is especially true with white breeds or varieties. Do not let a XXXX bird in color blind your judgment and award it a prize if the type is not there. The bird with the type characteristic of the breed, albeit a XX or XXX bird in color, may be the superior specimen when measured by the American Standard of Perfection, the only correct guide to judge by.

With parti-colored varieties the judge should follow the same rule, but with due regard for the value of fine barring, lacing and penciling in exceptionally fine colored specimens. To reproduce an even colored R. I. Red is an art and due consideration must be given to such, but a shapeless R. I. Red, small and under Standard weight, no matter how grand the color, should not get the judge "up in the air" and lead him to award it the blue ribbon over birds of type and size, albeit the color may be many points removed from that of a shapeless feathered star. Type rules the roost. Under the new Standard, especially, shape receives a greater allotment of points which makes it imperative that judges familiarize themselves thoroughly with the correct type of each and every variety fowl they pass upon. Disqualifying specimens is another "touchy" subject. Some judges throw out specimens for very trivial defects because an arbitrary Standard gives them the power to do so. They forget, however, that the same Standard admonishes them to give the bird the benefit of all reasonable doubt. To dig into the shanks, to see whether a stub or a feather once flourished there, to use a magnifying glass to discover an embryo feather, to put a sheet of paper between a lopped comb and the skull to find whether the comb really touches the skull, may be fine hair-splitting judging, but it is ridiculous in a true fancier's eyes. Give the poor little bird a chance always. It is well to look for the good qualities first, the bad ones, if any, will not affect or prejudice the judge's mind sufficiently then to lose sight of the meritorious sections. Judges should take out, handle and examine every bird in a class, unless positively unworthy of consideration. It will satisfy exhibitors far better to do this, even if in many instances it appears unnecessary to handle some specimens.

Judges should also do their own marking on the judges' card with an indelible pencil and verify the number on card with number on coop of winning specimen before turning signed card in to secretary. It is well to put the number of leg band down also.

A Comparison Record Card

For the convenience of judges, reporters and exhibitors who wish to keep a record of the winnings and near winners, we recommend the use of the American Poultry World Comparison Card, illustrated on page 56. It is a fairly accurate monitor for future reference as well as a simple means of assisting the judge in selecting the winners in a hot class and fortify him with the reasons for making the awards.



How to Hold the bird after removing from the show cage.

Some years ago we used a similar card and found it an efficient aid in arriving at the merits of the competing specimens. Other judges found it equally serviceable. It is not absolutely necessary at very large shows where there are

unusually numerous entries in each class of some popular breed or variety to take down the numbers of all competing specimens. There are usually many in a class that can be eliminated from competition on the first round of inspection, the remaining good ones can then be considered by the American Poultry World Comparison Rate Card System in much less time and a more satisfactory manner.

The sample card we have filled out explains the method. But judges or reporters need not necessarily follow our system of markings; they can substitute their own if they find it more convenient and more valuable as a reminder of what they did to the "poor little bird." In looking over the card please do not imagine that the birds rated have any actual existence or that the show reported was actually held at Buffalo. It is simply an illustration of how to apply the system. In looking over the awards we find No. 30 rated as having 12 x's and No. 23 has the same number. Both are equally good in shape and color but the comb of No. 23 lacks two serrations whereas No. 30 has a five point comb, which makes it a trifle better all around specimen even if it loses a little in size to 23. No. 24 is third because it loses in shape to other two. As noted in "remarks," No. 25 is a fine bird in every respect and equal to first and second, but loses in having broken feathers in wing and tail. Wherever there is a tie in the rating the rules laid down by the American Standard of Perfection should govern the breaking of the tie. The "Outs" are marked "O," a less objectionable way of marking a disqualified specimen.

In applying this method of judging fowls you not only keep in mind the ideal Standard requirements you have formed in your mind, but you are also in a position to get at relative values of competing specimens in a more thorough manner. You may find a beauty of a cockerel in shape at the beginning of the class and mark him XXX, believing him to be about the "best ever," but when you get along further and catch sight of another likely fellow you are forced to admit that he is a contender and mark him XXX also. A few steps further you find the "dream of the class," a wonder in style and shape, and it seems the other two, good as they looked to you a few minutes ago, fade away in comparison with the crackerjack you are now looking at. You can XXXX the latter or cut the other two down to XX and mark the "best yet" XXX.

The ideals of the mind are subject to change when confronted by living ideals in the flesh. You may think you have found the ideal as it exists in your mind in a specimen, but there may be just one bird a little bit better when you get to him. And that is where your careful rating on the card will prove a great help. It will frequently prevent a judge from getting confused in placing the awards in a hot class. The system is not perfect, no system of judging is, but it will work in a satisfactory manner if carefully and conscientiously followed or applied.

AMERICAN POULTRY WORLD JUDGES AND REPORTERS COMPARISON RATE CARD

SHOW: Buffalo N.Y.

DATE: Jan 7 1909

Variety S.C.R.I. Reds. Sex Cockerel

AWARD	COOP No.	SHAPE	COLOR	COMB CREST WATTLES LOBES	SIZE CONDITION WEIGHT	REMARKS
2	23	XXX	XXX	XX	XXXX	Comb lacks two serrations
3	24	XX	XXX	XXX	XXXX	Lacks fullness in front Pinched Tail
4	25	XXX	XXX	XXX	X	Broken feathers in wing and tail
	26	X	XXX	XXX	O	Small in size Underdeveloped
	27	XXX	O	XX	O	White in lobes Scaley legs
	28	O	O	—	—	Crooked back. Color of legs nearly white
	29	O	—	—	—	Wry tail
1	30	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	Lacks a little in size only
6	31	XX	XXX	XXX	XX	Too large in size and heavy in body
	32	X	XXX	XXX	XXXX	Lacks Red type; too much like Wyandotte in shape
5	33	XXX	XX	X	XXXX	Too dark in color; Comb heavy & not well serrated
	34	—	O	—	—	Too light in color Not a show specimen
	35	—	—	O	—	Badly twisted Comb
7	36	XXX	X	XXX	XXXX	White in sickle feathers and undercolor
	37	XX	XXX	XXXX	X	Lacks weight Green spots on shanks & toes

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MARKING.

IN SPECIMENS WORTHY OF AN AWARD
FOR A PERFECT SECTION MARK XXXX
FOR AN EXCELLENT SECTION MARK XXX
FOR A GOOD SECTION MARK XX
FOR A FAIR SECTION MARK X

IN ALL SPECIMENS UNWORTHY OF AN AWARD THE DEFICIENT SECTIONS SHOULD BE MARKED "O" MEANING "OUT" AND REASON STATED UNDER "REMARKS"

SIGNED John Doe JUDGE

JUDGING AND SCORING RHODE ISLAND REDS

SOME TRUTHS IN REGARD TO JUDGING R. I. REDS—VALUATION OF EACH AND EVERY SECTION—THE VARIOUS DEFECTS FOUND IN EACH SECTION AND WHAT THEY ARE GENERALLY CUT—THE FOLLOWING VALUATIONS AND CUTS ARE BASED UPON THE LATEST STANDARD OF PERFECTION WHICH WILL BE IN EFFECT 1911-1915 INCLUSIVE

D. E. HALE

IN PRESENTING this article to our many Rhode Island Red friends we wish first to thank the Rhode Island Red Club of America for permission to use the drawings of the Standard models drawn by Artist A. O. Schilling and which appear in "Red Hen Tales" of 1909.

In writing an instructive article upon judging R. I. Reds we cannot help but feel that there is not a harder breed in the Standard upon which to write such an article, owing to the fact that nine out of ten breeders of Reds, after they have bred them a year or so, claim to be judges. We do not claim any laurels for being "The Real Red Judge," or anything of that kind, but we think that a good deal of the trouble with our Red judges, especially with some of our specialists, is that they either have some particular hobby which overbalances their otherwise good judgment, or they judge every Red by the standard of a breeding specimen and not by the standard of an exhibition specimen. We make this latter statement as there is so much ignorance, or disregard, shown in regard to the valuations of the various sections.

When asked why such and such a bird won, we are almost invariably met with the reply, "He is the better breeder." We do not, or should not judge, or select, the best breeders, but the best exhibition specimens—those which come the nearest to complying with the Standard requirements. Many of our winners do not make good breeders, but as long as we recognize the American Poultry Association and judge according to its Standard, we must select our winners by this Standard and not because we think the bird will make the best breeder. Use your best breeders to produce the winner but it will not always follow that you should bring them into the show room.

We believe that a judge should study the Standard requirements and valuation of each section as given in the scale of points; study how much each section is worth and get an idea of about how much each defect is worth and how to deduct the valuation of each section, then, when he has mastered that, he is capable of putting his deductions down in black and white and will be able to explain why "such is such" whether he be judging by score card or comparison.

We would ask you first to study well the drawings on pages 64, also referred to by Mr. Coffin in his article on "The Ideal R. I. Red." These drawings were accepted as perfect or Standard models of the R. I. Red Club of America and are practically the same as those approved and adopted by the American Poultry Association, so for five years, at least, will be practically Standard models.

Scoring

In scoring, a perfect specimen is valued at or represents 100 points. Each section is valued at a certain amount as shown in the scale of points. Examine the bird, section by section, and deduct from the valuation of that section as much as you think the bird is defective. These deductions are generally spoken of as cuts. When you are through, add up the cuts and deduct from one hundred which gives you the score of the bird.

In order to acquaint the reader with the Standard score-card we reproduce herewith the card adopted by the American Poultry Association at the recent revision of the Standard of Perfection.

Official Score Card of American Poultry Association

Exhibitor.....

Variety..... **Sex**.....

Entry No...... **Band No.**..... **Weight**.....

	SHAPE	COLOR	REMARKS
Symmetry			
Weight or Size			
Condition			
Comb			
Head			
Beak			
Eyes			
Wattles and Lobes			
Neck			
Wings			
Back			
Tail			
Breast			
Body and Fluff			
Legs and Toes			
Crest and Beard			
Shortness of Feathers			
Total Cuts			Score

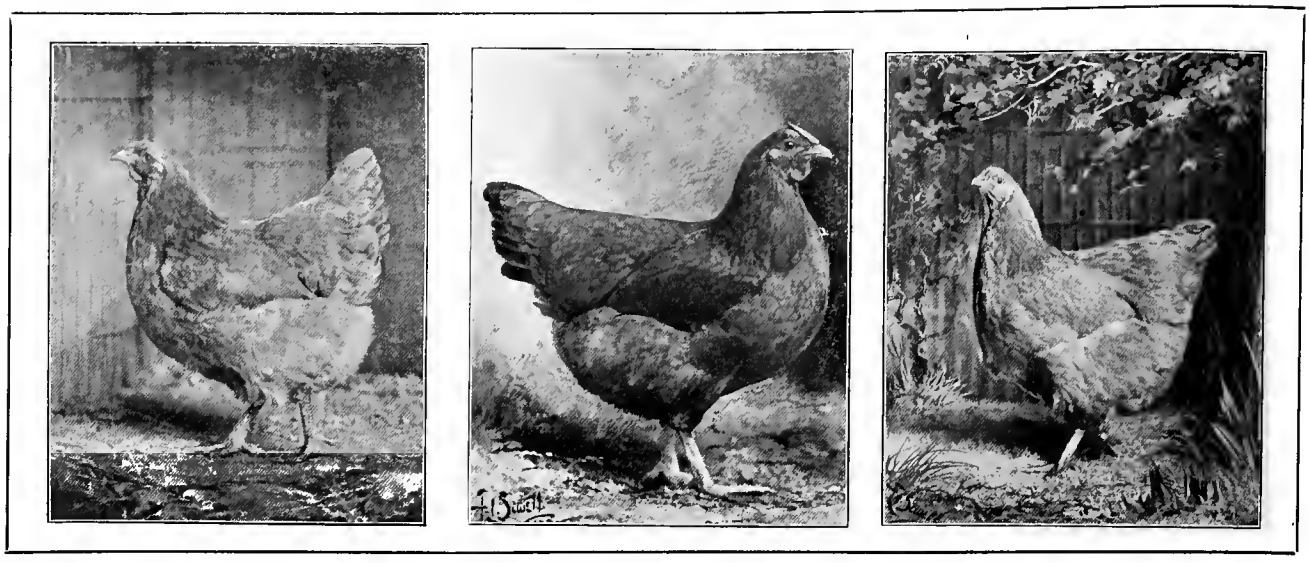
Secretary .....

Judge.....

Scale of Points

The sections as shown above on the Standard score-card are valued as shown in the Scale of points below.

Symmetry	4
Weight	4
Condition	4
Comb	8
Head—Shape 2, color 2	4
Beak—Shape 2, color 2	4
Eyes—Shape 2, color 2	4
Wattles and Ear-lobes—Shape 2, color 3	5
Neck—Shape 3, color 5	8
Back—Shape 6, color 5	11
Breast—Shape 6, color 5	11
Body and Fluff—Shape 5, color 3	8
Wings—Shape 4, color 5	9
Tail—Shape 5, color 5	10
Legs and Toes—Shape 3, color 3	6
Total	100



THREE TYPES OF RHODE ISLAND RED FEMALES

The above picture shows three distinct types of R. I. Reds seen in nearly every class of Reds exhibited. The one in the center is a typical shaped Red, showing the oblong shape desired in this breed. The one on the right is a fine shaped Plymouth Rock, while the one on the left is a typical Wyandotte. Give these two outside types a perfect R. I. Red plumage and you would not have a Red, yet many breeders are exhibiting types similar to these two and cannot understand why they do not win when they have such good color. Remember shape is 52 points; weight and condition 4 points and color 40 points of the 100.

We shall now take up the breed, section by section, explain what and how it should be, what the most common defects are and how much they are generally cut.

Symmetry

Symmetry is the first section listed on the score card and scale of points and is valued at four points having been reduced in value from eight points. What is symmetry? Webster defines it as "A due proportion of the several parts of a body to each other; or the union and conformity of the members of a work to the whole."

Under comparison judging and upon some score cards it is described as "Typical Carriage," which is defined in the Standard as "expressing a characteristic, in color or form, representative of a breed or variety." "Representative of a Breed or Variety,"—please remember that, as it is the main point we wish to make.

This section always has been the subject of much discussion, but if we understand the Standard requirements of a fowl, study each section, also the general outline of the fowl, how the parts or sections should fit together in harmony, in fact, get the ideal shape fixed in our mind as shown in the Standard drawings and description, then the minute we get a good look at a bird we know whether it is typical of the breed it represents or has symmetry.

Side view of a good Rose comb. It fits the head well and is fairly well pebbled. It should be cut about one point because it is a trifle smooth and tapers too abruptly to the spike giving it, somewhat, the appearance of a strawberry comb. The wattles should be cut one-half point for being wrinkled or folded.

In the R. I. Reds we have a breed that can be described as oblong.

As we study the pictures of the perfected models mentioned herein we can readily see where the R. I. Reds, represented by these pictures, fit the requirements.

General Shape

The head should be of medium size, carried horizontal and slightly forward, with a beak of medium length and slightly curved. The eye is oval, large and prominent. Single combs should be medium in size, set firmly upon the head, perfectly straight and upright, with five even and well defined points; the front and rear ones being smaller than those in the center, blade smooth, and not conforming to the shape of the head too closely. Rose combs should be low, firm on the head, oval in shape and surface covered with small points, terminating in a small spike at the rear and conforming to the shape of the head.

The neck is of medium length and the male neck should have an abundant hackle that flows over the shoulders making a graceful connection with the back. The female neck is also of medium length with a moderately full hackle. There should be a nice graceful connection with a back that is broad and long, carried horizontal, with the least concave sweep to the tail.

The saddle feathers should be of medium length and abundant, on the male. The tail of the male should be of medium length, well spread and carried at an angle of forty degrees from the horizontal, making the fowl look longer than it really is. The sickle feathers are also of medium length and extend beyond the stiff, or main tail feathers to give it a round, finished appearance, helped out by the lesser sickles and tail coverts which are also of medium length and abundant.

The tail of the female should be "rather short, moderately spread, carried at an angle of thirty-five degrees from the horizontal." The breast should be deep, well rounded, while the body should be broad, deep and long with a keel-bone that is long, straight, extending well forward which carries out the oblong appearance. The thighs are of medium length and rather large, with the shanks of medium length, straight, strong and well spread.

Note that the R. I. Red is described as medium all the way through.

We believe that a fowl should be judged for symmetry and shape before it is disturbed. Approach the cage quietly and observe the bird as a whole. Do the parts, or sections, harmonize, join together nicely? Has it a well finished appearance? Does it hold its head up and look the typical

THREE TYPES OF RHODE ISLAND RED MALES

Three distinct types of R. I. Red males seen in nearly every class of Reds. The center one is a typical shaped R. I. Red and a noted winner. The one on the left is a fine type of Plymouth Rock while the one on the right is a winning type of Wyandotte. As said on the opposite page: "Give either the Wyandotte or Rock type a perfect R. I. Red plumage and you would not have a Red, yet many breeders are exhibiting such types, with good color, and are disappointed when they do not win." Note well the length of back, keel and legs upon the center specimen; these features are well worth study. The R. I. Red has a type all its own and exhibitors must pay more attention to shape if they expect to win.

Red? Does it look like a Rhode Island Red regardless of color?

All these questions flash through a judge's mind in an instant.

If its neck (in show-room parlance) is not filled, giving it an ungainly, gawky appearance, cut from one-half to one. If its breast is undeveloped and flat, in which case it will look long on the legs, cut from one-half to one. If its tail is carried high, making the back look short and making it look short all over, cut from one-half to one and one-half. If the fowl is short, round and plump, causing it to look more like a Wyandotte, cut from one to one and one-half.

Symmetry is one of the most misunderstood sections in the whole scale of points and requires considerable study.

Some judges will cut every specimen, good and bad, one-half point for symmetry. Some will say that we should not cut for symmetry because the tail is bad and then cut the tail for shape. Remember that when we are judging symmetry we should forget that we have the tail to judge. Symmetry is worth four points and tail shape is worth five. Symmetry includes every section and if you are going to disregard it then you should deduct your total cuts from ninety-six instead of one hundred. Judge the bird as a whole and if, in your opinion, it is one-fourth or twenty-five per cent to the bad, then cut it one point for symmetry.

Top, or front, view of the comb illustrated and described on page 58.

Weight

This section is also valued at four points. The Standard tells us for every pound a fowl is under Standard weight, to cut two points or fraction thereof; one-fourth pound to be the minimum. For example: If a bird should weigh five pounds and it only weighs four, the cut would be two points; if it only weighed three and three-fourths pounds, the cut would be two and one-half; if it weighs four and three-fourths pounds, the cut should be one-half point, etc.

Any fowl having a Standard weight like the R. I. Reds, will be disqualified if it is two pounds or more under weight.

Condition

Condition is the next section and is also valued at four points.

This section covers healthiness, cleanliness, condition of plumage, scaly legs, injuries, frost bites, etc.

If the judge sees a bird that has a contagious disease, he should notify the superintendent and insist upon the bird being removed from the show room. If the bird has a slight cold it can be passed with a cut according to what the judge thinks it deserves, generally one-half to one point. Injuries from fighting, frost-bite, etc., which are liable to be accidental, are handled a little more leniently, the cuts running from one-half to one and one-half. Scaly legs are something that are inexcusable, as they are a sign of filth and are so easily cured, they should be cut from one to two and one-half points. Dirty plumage does not trouble the R. I. Reds very much as it is not quite so conspicuous as on lighter colored fowls, but if the birds are unnecessarily dirty a cut of one-half point will probably cover it.

Broken plumage generally gets cut from one-half to one in this section, depending upon the nature of the damage.

Comb

Comb is valued at eight points and is one of the many misunderstood sections. As mentioned above, a single comb should have five points or serrations. Most breeders know this and seem to think that all there is to a comb are the serrations. You will hear many of them say: "There is a good five point comb" or "There is a bad comb, it has only four points" or, "it has six points, etc." The Standard says we must cut one-half point for every serration more or less than five. If the comb has but four serrations the cut will be one-half and if it has six, the cut will be one-half; seven serrations will receive a cut of one point, etc. Supposing every point on the birds' comb were missing, we could only cut it two and one-half for missing serrations.

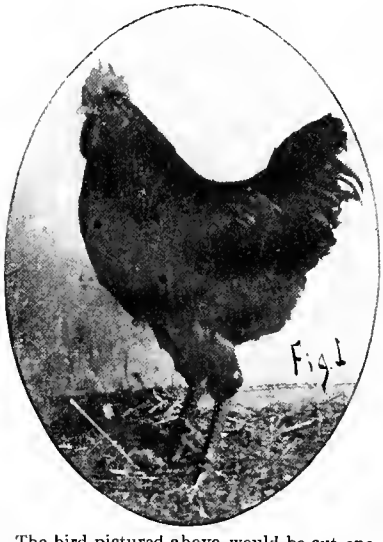
Let us see what other defects there are to look for. If we find a thumb mark, which is a sort of dent or hollow place, in a single comb, it must be cut not less than one point. If the rear of the comb turns around it should be cut from one-half to one. If we find the comb too large or "beefy" the cut should be one-half to one and one-half. If it is too coarse in texture, the cut should be one-half to one. So, a comb that gets off with a cut of one or one and one-half is a pretty good comb. Side sprigs on single combs disqualify the specimen.

In judging the rose comb some of the most common defects and cuts are as follows: If too coarse or over-size, cut one-half to one and one-half. Hollow centers should be cut from one to two; smooth, or lacking in corrugations cut one-half to one and one-half. Telescope spikes should be cut two and one-half. A spike that is too long and does not conform to the shape of the head should be cut from one-half to one. Entire absence of spike will disqualify the specimen. A lopped rose comb, that is one falling over far enough to touch the fowl's head will disqualify. A comb so large as to obstruct the sight * will also disqualify. When one considers all these points he will notice that the comb is quite an important section and worthy of considerable study.

*When holding the fowl with point of beak directly in front of one's eye, if the fowl's eyes cannot be seen we say the sight is obstructed.

Head

The head section is valued at four points divided two each for shape and color. It should be of medium size, carried horizontal and slightly forward. Should it appear too long and slender giving it the "gamey" or "snaky" appearance the cut should be one-half to one. If it should be too broad across the top giving the skull a Brahma appearance, as is sometimes the case in old birds, the cut should be one-half. Once in a great while you will find a specimen that is bald, caused by the male bird or perhaps by the depluming mite; a bird in such a condition should be cut one-half point for shape or it may be covered with the cut under "condition."



The bird pictured above would be cut one point for symmetry, because, he lacks twenty-five per cent of being a perfect or typical shaped R. I. Red and as symmetry is valued at 4 points the cut should be 1 point. He is too short in back; too long in legs; the tail is too high and pinched and the keel is too short giving the bird a Langshan appearance which is far from desirable.

In cutting for shape this bird should, in our opinion, be cut 1 point for back shape; 1 for tail shape; ½ breast; ¾ or 1 body and 1 on legs.

Beak

The beak is also valued at four points, two each for shape and color. It should be of medium length, slightly curved and reddish-horn in color. Should it be too long and straight, cut one-half. If too dark or too light, cut one-half or three-fourths. Deformed beaks will disqualify.

Eyes

This section is valued at four points divided two for shape and two for color. They should be large, oval and reddish bay in color. R. I. Reds are quite apt to have off-colored eyes. Those that are green or greenish-yellow, generally spoken of as "fish-eyes" should be cut one point each. Those that are red, but have a golden rim around the iris should be cut one-fourth to one-half each. If an eye shows permanent injury but retains its form it should be cut one-half to one. If the eye is destroyed and missing the cut should be one and one-half.

Wattles and Ear-lobes

This section is valued at five points, two for shape and three for color. If the wattles are frost-bitten so that they are disfigured the cut should be one-half to one. If they are uneven in size, wrinkled, folded or coarse in texture, the cut will be one-half to one. If they are torn or partly missing from injury, etc., cut from one-half to one.

The wattles on the above bird should be cut at least ½ point as one of them is contracted or smaller than the other. Wattle and ear-lobe shape is valued at 2 points.

The comb on the above specimen should be cut, in our opinion, 2 points. It is lacking one serration which would call for a cut of ½; the four serrations that it has are irregular or uneven which should get a cut of ½; the blade is uneven which should be cut ½ and the general shape of the comb is unbalanced, the front being considerable higher than the rear, which should be cut ½ making a total of 2 points.

The ear-lobes are important as we have here another disqualification. If they are more than one-half positive white the specimen is disqualified. Positive white means a white, sometimes spoken of as an enameled white, through which you cannot get the blood to circulate. Many birds develop a paleness of the comb it confined in a warm room for a few days and when judging we generally hold the bird's head down for a minute or two and rub the lobe and if it is not positive white you can thus cause the blood to rush to the head and flush the lobe. If, after such treatment, it still remains pale the cut should be from one-half to one as in degree. If the lobe shows a positive, enamel white covering less than one-half the lobe, cut from one-half to two and one-half. If the lobes are large, wrinkled or ill-shaped, cut from one-half to one. If they are scarred or injured, cut from one-half to one.

Neck

Neck section is valued at eight points, three for shape and five for color.

The Male—Neck should be of medium length with an abundant hackle flowing well over the shoulders and be rounded or full. If we find a neck that, in show-room parlance, is known as "not filled," that is, some of the feathers not matured, giving the neck the scrawny or slender appearance noted before, cut from one-half to one.

It sometimes happens, in an immature specimen, that the neck will be too long and out of proportion; such a neck should be cut one-half to one and one-half as in degree. The color of the male neck should be, "rich, brilliant red" with an under-color of red. There seems to be considerable dispute as to the proper shade of red. It is hard to describe on paper but it is easily understood that a dark red is not a brilliant red nor is a buff a brilliant red. The male neck should be nothing but red and if any ticking or lacing is found in this section it should be cut from one-half to two and one-half points. Smut, slate or white in the under-

color should be cut from one-half to two and one-half as in degree.

The Female--Neck should be of medium length with the hackle, moderately full. The color is red, both surface and under, with the exception of the tips of the lower hackle; these should be tipped with black. It is generally spoken of as "ticking." Now that does not mean that they should have ticking half way up their neck for it distinctly says: "Lower hackle." Neither does it call for lacing. We mention these points because that is what we generally find and many breeders seem to think that ticking ought not be cut even when it runs half way up the neck. A female neck that has no ticking at all should be cut from one-half to one. If it has too much ticking it should be cut from one-half to two as in degree. If it is so heavy as to make lacing or edging running part way around each feather, it should be cut from one to two and one-half.

Back

The back is one of the most important and most highly valued of any breed. It is valued at eleven points; six for shape and five for color.

The Male--Back is described as being "broad, long, horizontal" and has "a slight concave sweep to the tail" while the saddle feathers are of medium length and abundant. Note that it says, "long." Heretofore everything has been described as "medium." If we find a back that is too short the cut should be from one-half to two and one-half as in degree; if it has a cushion causing a Cochin, or Wyandotte effect, cut from one-half to two. If it is too narrow, cut from one-half to one and one-half. If saddle feathers are broken or undeveloped causing a pinched or narrow effect, cut from one-half to one and one-half. Crooked backs disqualify. The color should be a rich, brilliant red on surface with a red under-color. Color is here valued the same as for neck; five points. Lacing or ticking on the saddle feathers should be cut from one-half to three, as in degree. Smut, slate or white in under-color should be cut from one-half to two and one-half, as in degree. Surface color not matching or harmonizing, being of different shades of red, should be cut from one-half to two.

The above comb should be cut at least two and one-half points. It is lacking two serrations which would call for a cut of 1; the three serrations that it has are short, evidently frozen off which would call for a cut of ½; the blade is irregular having a point thereon which would get a cut of at least ½; the blade follows the head too closely and the front of the comb is too high and coarse for the balance which would get a cut of ½ making a total of 2½ points.

The Female—Back should be broad, long and carried horizontal. The cuts for shape as applied to male will apply here. Look out for the short, curved, narrow ones also the cushions and cut them hard for they are a long way from being the typical Red back. The color cuts as applied to the male will also apply here.

Tail

The tail is one of the most beautiful sections of the R. I. Red and is valued at ten points, five each for shape and color.

The Male—Tail should be carried at an angle of forty degrees from the horizontal. It should be of medium length and well spread. The color should be black; the sickles should be a lustrous, greenish black. The coverts may show a little red as they approach the saddle. If the tail is carried too high or perpendicular, cut from one-half to two, as in degree. If it comes in front of a perpendicular, or rather, points more toward the head than to the rear, it becomes what is called a squirrel-tail and disqualifies the specimen. If it is contracted or pinched, cut from one-half to two. Missing or broken sickles should be cut one point each. Missing or broken main-tail feathers should be cut one-half point each. There should be seven main-tail feathers on each side, so you can easily tell if any are missing. White in surface or under-color should be cut from one-half to three, as in degree. One or more entirely white feathers showing in the outer plumage in any section will disqualify. Purple barring should be cut from one-half to two. If main-tail, or sickles show any red they should be cut from one-half to the color limit if necessary. If the coverts show too much red they should be cut from one-half to two.

This bird we would cut 1 for symmetry as he is too long in neck and tail a trifle too short in back and keel. He has a fine head and comb but would be cut ½ neck shape, too long; ¾ or 1 for back shape, too short; 1 for tail shape, too long and pinched ½ for breast too flat and undeveloped; ¾ or 1 for body shape, keel too short. The legs are of good length and well spread. The bird evidently is not standing in a natural position.

The Female—Tail is carried at an angle of thirty-five degrees from the horizontal. It should be rather short and moderately spread. In color, it should be black except the two top feathers may be edged with red. The cuts for missing main-tail feathers, pinched tails, high tails, etc., are as applied to the male. The same color cuts will also apply, that is, red in any part, except two top feathers will be cut from one-half to the color limit if necessary.

The Wings

The wings are valued at nine points, four for shape and five for color. They should be well folded, the fronts covered by the breast feathers; flights carried horizontal. The color of both male and female wing is the same and hard to describe without quoting the Standard, which says in part: "Wing-bows, brilliant red; primaries, upper web red, lower web black with a narrow edging of red; primary coverts, black; secondaries, lower web, red; the red extending around the ends of the feathers, the remainder of each feather black the five feathers next to the body being red on the surface so that the wing folded in a natural position, shall show one harmonious red color."

A slipped wing, i. e., one that allows part of the wing to hang down in an unnatural position, generally caused by missing feathers between primaries and secondaries, should be cut one point each. Missing or broken flight feathers should be cut one-half point each. Too much red should

be cut from one-half to the color limit, if necessary. Black in wing-bow should be cut from one-half to two and one-half.

The wing section is the most complicated we have as far as color description is concerned and must be studied in the Standard and on the living specimens to be thoroughly understood.

The Breast

This section is valued at eleven points, same as back, divided six for color and five for shape. The shape of both male and female is described the same: "Deep, full and well rounded." The color should be a rich red with a red under-color. A breast that is undeveloped and not round and full should be cut from one-half to two and one-half, as in degree. If it is narrow, it should be cut from one-half to one and one-half. A full, pendulous crop does not make a full breast, as many exhibitors would have a judge think. Smut, slate or white in under-color should be cut from one-half to two, as in degree. Mealiness should be cut from one-half to one and one-half. Shaftiness should be cut from one-half to one and one-half.

Body and Fluff

This section commences at the point of the breast or keel-bone and extends back. It is valued at eight points; five for shape and three for color. This section takes in the keel-bone, sometimes spoken of as breast-bone, which is one of the important sections of a Red as it should be long and straight and carried well forward giving the desired oblong appearance. The body feathers are carried rather loose while the fluff feathers are moderately full. Crooked keel-bones are cut from one-half to two points and notation "C. B." or "C. K." for crooked breast or crooked keel should be made in the "remarks" column so that the exhibitor will understand why cut was made.

If too fat and stern is carried too low, cut one-half to one. If too shallow and narrow, cut from one-half to one.

Legs and Toes

To this section little attention is paid, yet it is valued at six points; three for shape and three for color. The thighs and shanks should be of medium length, well rounded and set well apart. The toes should be of medium length, well spread, straight and strong.

"Stubs," that is, feathers or down on shanks or between the toes will disqualify. Knock-knees should be cut from one-half to one point. Bow-legs should be cut one-half to one. Crooked toes are cut one-half point each. Scaly legs are explained under "condition" section. Legs too light in color, cut one-half to two. Missing spurs on cock birds, cut one-half point each.

Some General Defects

Try and get the proper shade of red in your mind and in cutting for too light or too dark you will have to use your judgment; the cuts generally run from one-half to one and one-half in each section.

The general surface color should be rich, even red except where black is specified. Any mealiness should be cut from one-half to one and one-half in each section where found. Shafting should be cut from one-half to one and one-half in each section where found. Study the Standard so that you know what the requirements are for each section; study the valuations and study about what each defect is worth so that you can tell at a glance, then you will get a system in your mind that will enable you to score your bird twice alike, or very nearly so.

"RED PILOT"
A WINNER AT CLEVELAND & MISSOURI STATE SHOW 1909

CHAPTER V

R. I. REDS AS UTILITY AND STANDARD-BRED FOWLS

THEIR FINE PRACTICAL QUALITIES FIRST ATTRACTED ATTENTION—SHOULD NOT BE BRED TO GREATER SIZE—THEIR VALUE AS EGG PRODUCERS—THEY MAKE GOOD MOTHERS AND STAND CONFINEMENT WELL—A WONDERFUL DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARD QUALITIES IN THE LAST TEN YEARS—THEY NOW RIVAL OLDER VARIETIES IN BREEDING TRUE TO TYPE AND COLOR

M. S. GARDNER

THE Rhode Island Red first came into the lime-light as a utility bird par excellence. At once some of our enterprising breeders began the work of improvement along fancy and standard lines. So great became the interest and rivalry in this matter of producing fine feathers or specimens good enough to go into the show room, that the very qualities which first brought the Rhode Island Red into public notice have been almost entirely lost sight of. Without question the two varieties of Reds have made wonderful progress along standard lines, but this should not cause those breeding them to overlook the fact that whatever may be their attainments in the show room the fundamental value of the breed is and always will be its adaptability to the various utility purposes. It is not my purpose in this article to present pages of statistics showing the number of eggs produced in one year by all the Rhode Island Reds in New England. I shall merely give a synopsis of a few of the facts that have come under my personal observation during the last year or two.

Down to the present time the Rhode Island Reds have not been injured as utility fowls by breeding for too great size and it is not probable that they will be so injured. Some strains of Plymouth Rocks have been so tampered with in point of size that the laying habit has reached the minimum and the male birds require the greater part of a year in which to become fully developed. The Rhode Island Red is large enough at present for best results in egg production and for table purposes. The largest fowl is not always the best one as a meat producer, either at the broiler age or when fully mature. If it were, then we should all be breeding Brahmas and Cochins. The cow that can assimilate the greatest quantity of food and from a given amount of it produce the most pounds of butter fat, is the most profitable butter cow no matter of what breed she may be. The animal of any beef breed that can turn a certain quantity of corn and hay into the greatest number of pounds of beef is best for that purpose, whether it be an animal of medium size or one abnormally large. So, the hen that can from one hundred pounds of food produce the largest number of eggs, whether she be Rhode Island Red or Wyandotte, is the greatest profit maker, and the chicken that can grow the largest amount of meat from a certain quantity of food in the shortest time is the best for utility purposes. The flesh of the oversized fowl is usually coarse in texture.

PAIR OF RHODE ISLAND REDS

This illustration represents a pair of R. I. Red fowls which were killed and dressed just a few hours previous to my recent visit to Pure Strain Farms, Scottsville, N. Y. These birds were not specially fed nor prepared for this purpose, but the fine market qualities of the breed show in their plumpness of body, breast and thigh.—A. O. Schilling.

Reds As Egg Producers

Take the Standard and read carefully the shape description of the female: "Back—broad, long, etc.; breast deep, well rounded; body broad, deep, long; keel bone long, keel bone carried well forward giving the body an oblong appearance." Does this not describe the typical egg machine? Now turn to the cut of the female. Note the long body and wedge shape indicative of the prolific egg producer. I have never made any yearly records of the Rhode Island Reds as layers but from information gained from reliable sources and corroborated by my own experience, I believe that a flock of Rhode Island Red hens will produce as many eggs in a year as a flock of equal number of any other variety in the Standard.

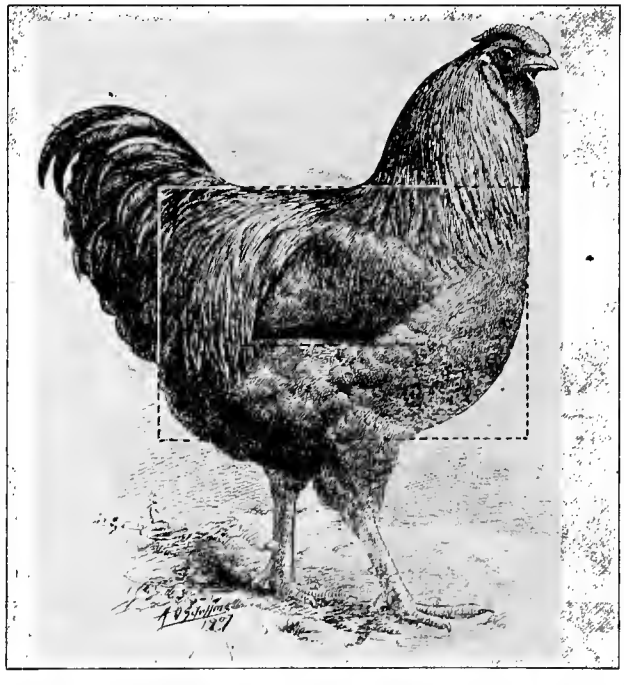
They lay brown eggs, varying in shade from a creamy tint to chocolate. This would be a disadvantage of course in some markets and in others it would not. The average Rhode Island Red female does not lay as large eggs as do Minorcas or White Leghorns, but as eggs are sold by the dozen and not by weight in nearly all markets, this makes very little difference. I do not wish it to be understood that the Rhode Island Reds lay small eggs. Far from it. Those that I have had any experience with have laid fully as large

eggs as the Plymouth Rocks and larger than most Wyandottes. I have on several occasions had eggs from them that weighed from one pound ten ounces to one pound three quarters to the dozen. It is not an uncommon thing for a Rhode Island Red female to lay continuously for four or five months without becomir g broody. Here is a field in which if any other breed can do better work, I have never had proof of it. Many of our large Plymouth Rocks are too heavy to be used successfully in the hatching and rearing of chicks. The lighter and more active Red is nearly ideal for this purpose. She is large enough to cover a good nestful of eggs, but not so heavy as to smash every one she gets her feet on. She is quiet and when once broody is a persistent sitter and she is a careful mother. One hen that hatched eleven chickens for us last season raised them all and still continued to care for them until she had laid nearly two dozen eggs. She did not hesitate to attack any dog, cat or other animal that molested the brood.

As the R. I. Reds are more active and energetic than some of the larger fowls, hens of this breed with broods of chickens are exceptionally good foragers and teach the chickens to roam over large areas in search of insects. A Red hen with a dozen chicks to scratch for can and will dig over the surface of a large garden in a surprisingly short time.

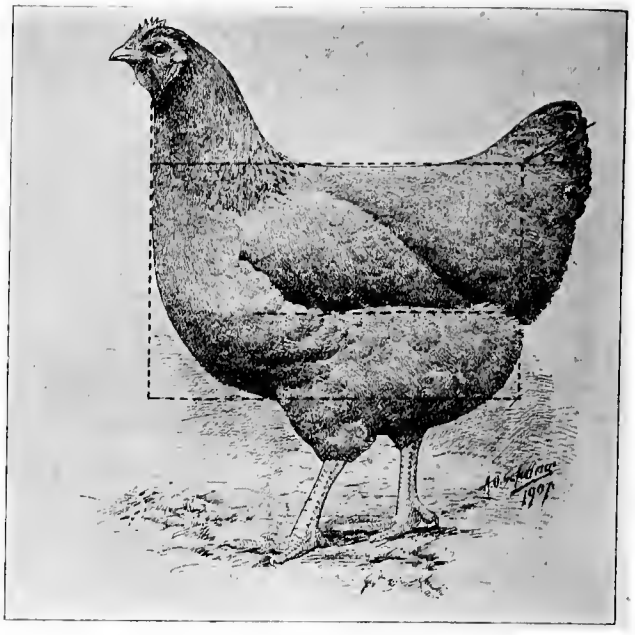
Growth of Chickens

During the last twenty years the writer has raised more than twenty of the standard varieties that are now considered the most popular ones. After carefully observing the growth of chickens of these different breeds I wish to state that I believe that R. I. Red chickens make more rapid growth and will weigh more at the end of three or four months than will chicks of any other American variety. This season we put mixed lots of eggs under several hens. These consisted of Black Orpingtons, Barred Rocks and Rhode Island Reds. Each hen hatched several chickens of each of the three varieties. The hens were allowed their freedom after the first week and hens and chicks were fed for the purpose of securing as rapid growth in the chicks as possible. At the end of the first month the Red chickens were better feathered than either the Orpingtons or Rocks. We had lost six Rocks one Red and one Orpington. There had been no particular ailment, but the chicks that died did not have sufficient stamina to follow the hens. At the end of two months the Reds were still in the lead in point of size and were all well feathered, while the cockerels and some of the pullets of the other two varieties were only partially feathered. At the end of three months the Red cockerels averaged three pounds each, the Orpingtons two pounds and fourteen ounces and the Rocks two pounds and nine ounces.



IDEAL RHODE ISLAND RED MALE

The purpose of these two illustrations (ideal male and female) is show upon what lines standard R. I. Reds are built. It wil be noticed that in both the male and female the line of the back runs nearly horizontal and is blended into the base of the neck and into the tail by a very slight curve. The main part of the body can be enclosed in an oblong. When the bird stands in a natural position, it should be inclined to hold its head up and forward, giving the fowl an alert apperance.—A. O. Schilling.



IDEAL RHODE ISLAND RED FEMALE

In an ideal specimen it will be found that the base of the beak is nearly in line with the the extreme front line of the breast (see dotted lines on sketches). The wing at the lower edge should form a horizontal line to obtain which the fowl must carry the flights well up and folded closely. One might say that the ideal R. I. Red is built upon straight lines which are modified and blended into each other by slight or gradual curves, according to the section of the fowl.—A. O. Schilling.

I have heard the statement made that the Rhode Island Red did not make a good broiler or roaster on account of a deficiency of breast meat. Nothing could be further from the true facts in the case. At all stages of development from one month to three the Reds were more plump and had less pin feathers than either of the other. Two cockerels killed at three months were noticeably well developed in breast and presented an unusually plump and attractive appearance for chicks of that age. After having been accustomed to eating well fattened Plymouth Rocks for many years, I wish to say that I have never eaten chickens of more delicate flavor or of a finer and more tender texture of flesh than the two Rhode Island Reds just mentioned.

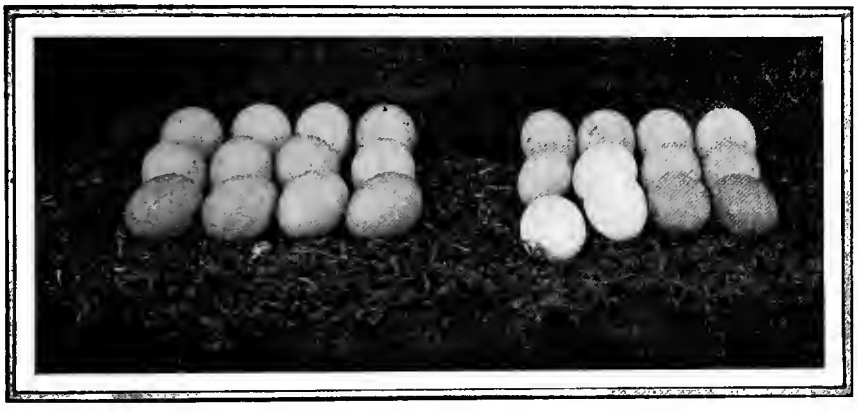
On account of the surprisingly quick growth of feathers on the young Reds, only surpassed by the Leghorns, they are very free from pin feathers at all stages of development. They have rich yellow skin and fatten easily at any age after reaching a suitable size for killing. They are very plump and symmetrical and although the adult fowls are not as large as the Plymouth Rocks, I know of no market where the Red does not bring top prices if properly conditioned. One very important point in favor of the Red for utility purposes is this, although, as has just been stated, they fatten easily, yet I have never seen a female of this breed break down from overfeeding or become too fat to lay. In some of the larger varieties great care must be exercised to prevent the older

females of the flock from breaking down with fat and thus becoming worthless as breeders or layers.

Stand Confinement Well

Although much more active than Orpingtons and Plymouth Rocks we do not find them more difficult to confine. A five foot fence is sufficient to keep them within bounds. They seem to bear confinement in yards well and produce as many eggs as when at liberty. The Red hen never stands humped up in a corner during the winter days waiting for someone to come with the feed pail. If there is any litter on the floor, it is all the inducement necessary to keep her working. She will turn it over and over looking for the last kernel of grain, while the more lazy hen of larger size mopes under the platform waiting for the next meal.

Some hens consider it necessary to take a three months' vacation during the moulting season. Not so with the Rhode Island Reds. Our hens, now in full moult, are giving us better than a fifty per cent egg yield and show no disposition to stop for a small matter like change of dress. This is one of the strong points of this variety. The egg habit is so firmly established and the hens possessed of so great an amount of vigor and reserve force that the moult interferes very little with the business of supplying eggs for the family or market.



RHODE ISLAND RED EGGS

We were afforded the opportunity, during a recent visit to Pure Strain Farms, Scottsville, N. Y., to make several studies of the R. I. Red as market poultry and to note the quality and size of R. I. Red eggs as compared with the ordinary eggs purchased on the market. The accompanying illustration shows on the left a dozen eggs from Pure Strain Farms Reds in comparison with the ordinary market eggs on the right. The R. I. Red eggs were big and brown and of uniform size and showed great improvement over the ordinary eggs which varied much in size, color and shape. —A. O. Schilling.

As I write, the Red chickens are pursuing the grasshoppers over the oat stubble and through the corn fifty or sixty rods from the house. They are the picture of health, vigor and energy. Someone has said: "Doubtless God could have made a better berry than the strawberry, but doubtless He never did." So we may well say of the Rhode Island Red, "Unquestionably the Creator could have made a better utility fowl, but unquestionably He never did."

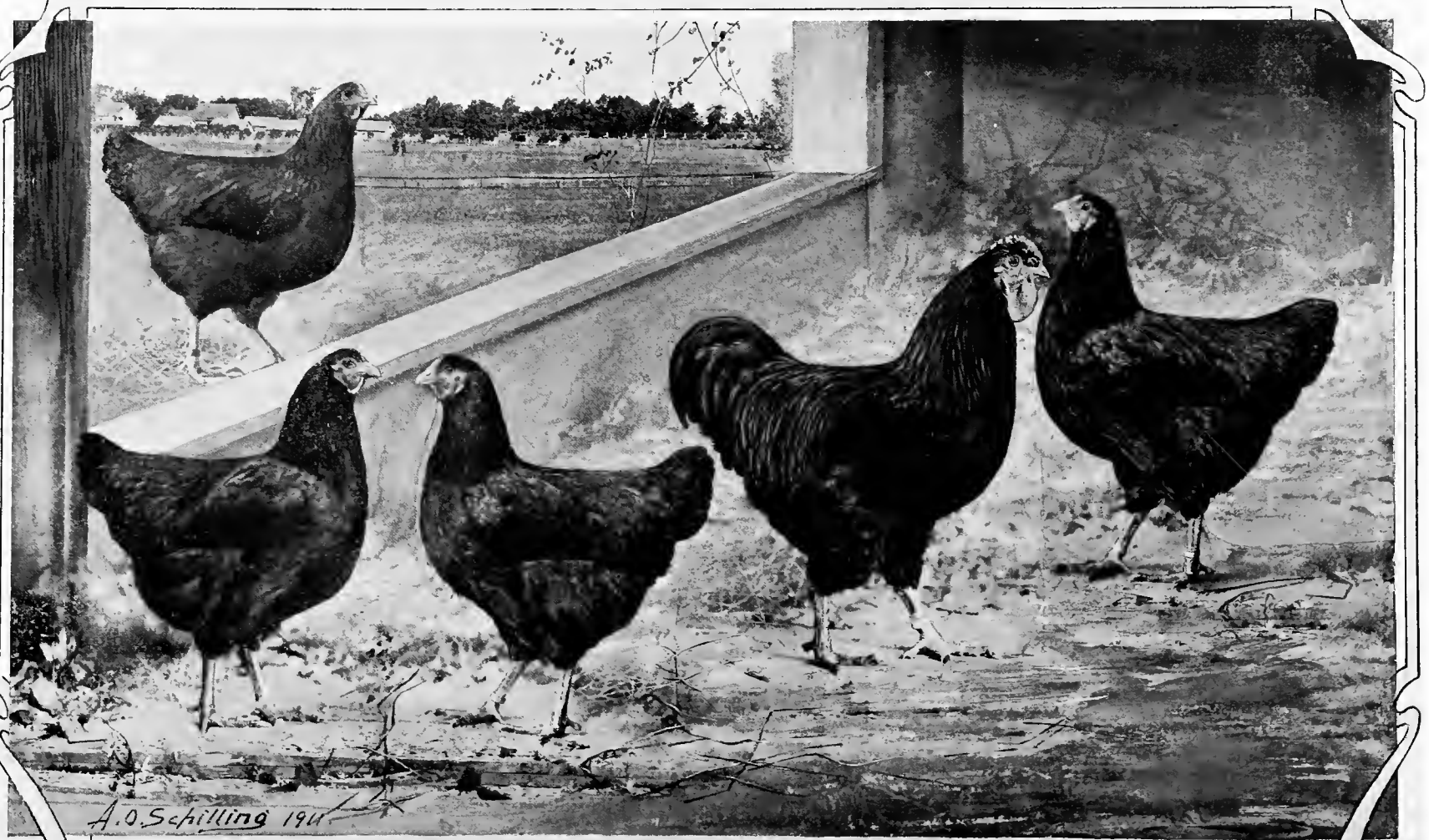
R. I. Reds as Standard-bred Fowls

The writer spent the summer and fall of 1902 in Massachusetts and Connecticut, that hot-bed of Rhode Island Red enthusiasts, and had the pleasure of inspecting some large flocks that were being bred as close as possible to the standard that had been proposed for the breed. I am frank to say that what I saw of the Reds at that time prejudiced me against them to such an extent that it required several years to remove that feeling. One could find nearly as many shades of color in a flock of five hundred chicks as are seen in a rainbow, or on a sample card in a paint store. The number of shades of color were only surpassed by the different shapes or types. In the one flock could be found birds varying from dark brown to light cream. Some had white wings and tails, others black shoulders and hackles. In shape some resembled Langshans, some Minorcas and still others were of the creeper type.

In one flock of more than five hundred youngsters that I looked over in August or September of that year, it would have been impossible to find four pullets and a male of sufficiently uniform color or type to put into a show room.

It appeared at that time that the men who had the hardihood to undertake the work of making a breed out of this conglomeration of types and colors had attempted a herculean task.

What a change has been wrought in a brief eight years. Go into any one of our large shows, north, south, east or west and we find long rows of Red fowls, both rose and single comb, around which center the interest of a large body of representative breeders and visitors. The buying public is well represented in the Red hen aisle at all shows. Walk carefully down past the rows of coops containing either variety of Reds, examine them with critical eye, compare them for uniformity of color or type with any other breed in the show, and whether you breed Rocks, Orpingtons, Wyandottes or Polish, if you are fairminded you will be compelled to exclaim, "Wonderful! Wonderful!" The breeders of Reds surely possessed the progressive American spirit that overcame apparently unsurmountable obstacles, and accomplished what ten years ago seemed to be the work of a century.



FIRST PRIZE PEN ROSE COMB RHODE ISLAND REDS
CHICAGO SHOW 1910.
Bred & Owned By LESTER TOMPKINS CONCORD MASSACHUSETTS.

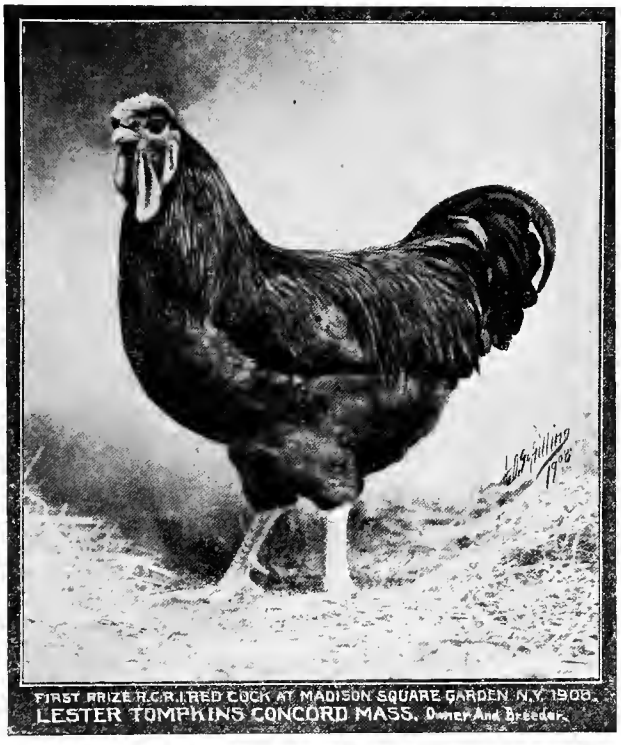
UTILITY VALUE OF RHODE ISLAND REDS

ORIGIN OF THE REDS—THEY POSSESS REMARKABLE UTILITY QUALITIES—LINE BREEDING IS ADVISABLE ONLY TO A LIMITED EXTENT—IT IS A GREAT ADVANTAGE TO THE BREED THAT DOUBLE MATING IS UNNECESSARY—CARE MUST BE TAKEN TO USE CORRECT MATINGS AS EXTREMES IN COLOR WILL PRODUCE MANY DIFFERENT SHADES IN THE CHICKS

LESTER TOMPKINS, MASSACHUSETTS

FOR more than forty years I have known the Rhode Island Reds in Little Compton, their original home. In speaking of the new breed, or as I know them, the new old breed, I am carried back to boyhood days. This was about the only fowl we saw on the farm in our town, which at that time, and today, produced more poultry than any place of its size to be found.

The Reds were found to be so hardy that nearly everyone used Red males even if he had different colored females, until the flocks became practically all red. Changing males and out-crossing, with occasionally putting in a bird brought home from sea by sailors living in that region, strengthened the flocks wonderfully. If someone was so fortunate as to secure a new male from over the sea, the fact quickly became known and that year he found ready sale for all the cockerels he could raise.



FIRST PRIZE R.C.R.I.RED COCK AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN N.Y. 1908.
LESTER TOMPKINS CONCORD MASS. Owner And Breeder.

While many farmers bred only for eggs and meat, and introduced new males simply to keep up vigor, a few took more pains and selected and bred carefully a few each year, thereby building up some fine flocks that would reproduce. It was from some of those flocks that selections were made and exhibited as Rhode Island Reds, when first introduced to the fancy. They have since been, and are today, growing in popularity. From this you can readily see that the farmer who had taken no pains; in fact, no care in breeding, found a ready market for his stock, as anything red must be a Rhode Island Red, while there was really a great difference in the stock.

Line breeding is all right to a certain extent, but it is of great danger to the Reds, as the breed was made up by out-crossing, and to keep them at their best, I believe this must be continued. While it may be well to line-breed in order to establish lines, it is the union of these lines that gives best results, when the lines nick properly.

Another point we hear spoken of "My pullets run light —I need a dark male to strengthen my females." This is disappointing, usually, as the extremes in color will produce a great variety of shades in the chicks.

Better not go quite so fast but secure better results in the end. Also use a little care and select a breeder with strong undercolor (not so dark in surface) if it shows a trifle smut, which so many are afraid of. The tendency is for females to fade from laying, and I believe we must overdo the shade a little in order to keep a good color after fading.

There is mention occasionally, that Reds do not breed true. I have claimed, and still claim, that they will breed as true as any breed we have, if properly mated. The great trouble is the craze of fanciers to produce a crackerjack. They resort to extremes and of course get a variety of shades and styles of colors in spite of which well bred flocks can be mated to breed a uniform lot in males and females of good quality without the "double mating" we hear so much about.

Double mating I do not consider necessary in Rhode Island Reds, as males and females can be produced from same mating, that is, from same male and females. There is not the least doubt but the best flocks of Reds in the country are descended from as pure a race of fowls as any breed in the world.

This talk of Reds coming from mongrels, has no foundation, only as above mentioned, when pushed by fakers for personal gain. Many of those sold as Reds were not true Rhode Island Reds to start with—they simply happened to resemble the purer flocks in color, and so deceived a lot of innocent people. While the best flocks vary some in shade, a slight difference in the shade of red is more conspicuous than in colors that are not so bright, the culls are so readily noticed that a novice can easily pick them out without the aid of an expert.

A flock of good specimens of Rhode Island Reds is certainly grand to look upon and they are surely coming to the front as a fancier's breed, and as the greatest utility fowl of the day.

WHY WE PREFER RHODE ISLAND REDS

GREAT LAYERS AS WELL AS GREAT TABLE FOWLS—FLESH IS RICH AND FINE IN GRAIN—SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES MET IN BREEDING REDS--WONDERFUL GROWTH IN POPULARITY OF THE BREED PREDICTED

IRVING A. SISLEY

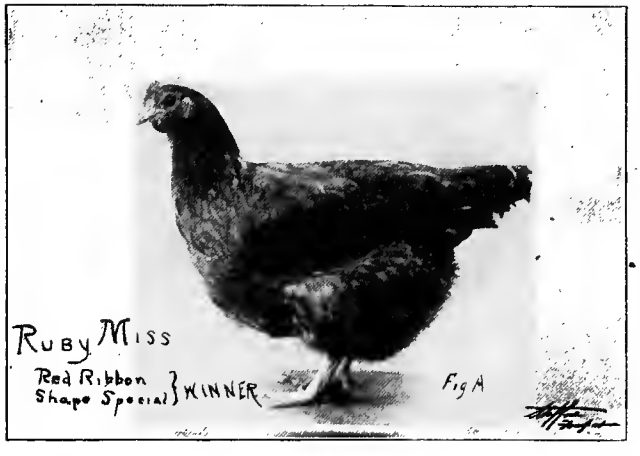
OUR reason for breeding Rhode Island Reds is, that they are great layers as well as great table fowls; and to this fact we attribute their increasing popularity.

The greatest difficulty found in breeding Rhode Island Reds is owing to the fact of their having been bred so short a time for color, they are not yet what they should be in this respect. However, regardless of color, they have invariably proved to be great utility fowls.

We cull closely and have selected for breeding purposes, only from 33⅓ to 50 per cent of the birds raised; and, in former years not so large a percentage.

We have never practiced double mating, and I trust it will not be necessary to double mate in order to produce birds which are satisfactory as to color, shape, etc. We have trapnested a number of birds which have produced from 200 to 235 eggs each; also have had pullets laying as young as four months and twenty-three days.

The Reds are fast gaining in popularity, in this section of the country, for table purposes, because of the fact that



S. C. R. I. Red Hen owned by Mr. Geo. L. Andrews, Freeport L. I. This hen not only won a second prize, and shape special but laid 200 eggs in one year. Note the extreme length of body which is characteristic of the good layer.

their flesh is fine grained, very rich, and that they have large breasts with a large amount of white meat, and they mature young.

Having been a breeder of thorough-bred chickens since a boy, I have tried several kinds, including Black Spanish, Games, Partridge Cochins, Wyandottes, Barred Rocks, Leghorns and Silver Spangled Hamburgs.

Some seven or eight years ago I decided to cross-breed Plymouth Rock hens with a Rose Comb Brown Leghorn cock with a view of getting winter layers. The result of this cross was quite satisfactory, producing some beautiful black pullets with rose combs, of good size and handsome in appearance. About this time a friend of mine from Minnesota visited me and asked regarding the breeding of these pullets. I told him, and also that I was looking for a thorough-bred, good size, clean, yellow-legged fowl to cross with them. He asked me if I had seen the Reds. I told him no. He said they were becoming popular in Minnesota because they laid in cold weather and did not require artificial heat; they were hardy and of good size, and as he had some extra cockerels would send me one to use in my flock. When this bird arrived I was so much pleased with his appearance that I decided to get some full blooded Rhode Island Reds, and in looking about, satisfied myself as to who were the most successful breeders of these fowls. I finally purchased four hens, three pullets and a cockerel. From this pen, the following season, I raised about 173 birds. In September 1907, I decided I would like to see the Rhode Island Reds in the Eastern states, so I took a trip to Fall River, Mass., where I met Dr. Aldrich, with whom I spent three days visiting the yards of the most prominent breeders in that locality.

I think one reason why the Rhode Island Reds are such egg producers and such hardy fowls is that they are the result of out-crossing instead of in-breeding. I learned that these birds had been bred as far back as the 50's and that they were originally bred by a gentleman who was what we might term a market proprietor, i. e., a man who bought chickens and eggs throughout the country and sold them to the Boston market. I am told that this man's name was Tripp, and that when he found an extra good hen he kept her in his own yards, regardless of variety. A number of sea captains (personal friends of Mr. Tripp) who sailed to the West Indies and the Malay Islands frequently purchased Red Malay Games for the purpose of having cock fights on the boats. On their return from abroad and, on arriving at Little Compton, many of these brids were given to Mr. Tripp and were turned into his yards, which accounts for the prevailing red color among this class of fowls.

These birds were, as before stated, bred to all kinds of what were known as barnyard or dung-hill fowls, such as were generally raised in the locality at that time; some were Brahmas, some were Shanghais, some were dark and some were light, some with feathers on their legs, but all were healthy, vigorous specimens. Mr. Tripp bred these birds in this way until it became known throughout that section of the country that his birds were great table fowls as well as egg producers. The neighbors in that locality got eggs from Mr. Tripp until, in the course of time, there were more of this class of fowls raised in the New England states than of nearly all other breeds combined.

In talking with the late Dr. Aldrich, he told me that in 1899 he exhibited at the Madison Square Garden poultry show in New York City the first of this class of birds ever shown. His friends "jollied" him regarding his dung-hills. However, upon his return to Fall River, he, together with a number of others who were familiar with the good qualities of these birds and who were already breeding them, formed a club, and from that time on the Rhode Island Red fowl has gained in popularity, until today they are better known and in greater demand than any other variety.

I have yet to meet a person who has ever bred Rhode Island Reds together with other breeds who has not discarded the others for the Rhode Island Red.

It is not an uncommon thing for me to receive letters reading as follows: "I have been breeding such and such a line of birds for a number of years and have decided to try a few Reds." My own experience has been so satisfactory that I firmly believe that within the next ten years there will be more Rhode Island Reds raised in the United States than all other kinds combined.

At first the Reds were bred entirely on account of their utility qualities, but today I doubt if there is another bird which is more attractive or more beautiful than the Rhode Island Red.

BREEDING RHODE ISLAND REDS FOR EGG PRODUCTION

FIVE IMPORTANT POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND—TYPE—EXERCISE—FEEDING—HOUSING—HATCHING

GEO. L. ANDREWS

IN THE Reds we have at least one breed not spoiled by fanciers sacrificing type to color as they realize that the special feature which has so rapidly brought the breed into popular and lasting favor is their pronounced utility qualities. All emphasize shape in exploiting their various strains and this breeding to type has perfected a fancier's fowl of sterling worth.

In breeding them for egg production we must consider five contributing factors, viz.; breeding, feeding, housing, exercising and hatching.

Breeding

Keep the type ever prominent. The long, broad backed, low-keeled hen with well spread legs, is the laying hen; select accordingly, also keeping your eye open for the bird with the bright, sparkling eyes, activity standing out all over her. You will find she is the scratcher, too. Do not breed from birds of low vitality, denoted by a flat, long billed snakey head, undeveloped comb and wattles, pinched back and knock-kneed legs. Select your known best layers, closely conforming to this type, always mating with a male with pronounced constitutional vigor, indicated by active movements, upright carriage, well developed head, long broad back, tail well spread and full feathered, legs sturdy and set well apart with breast broad and full, and whom you know to be from a heavy layer. He should have a lusty crow, be gallant to his mates and should be always aching for a test of his powers with another male.

Introduce new blood when necessary from a heavy laying strain, preferably of the same blood as your foundation stock.

Feeding

Feeding is of the utmost importance and counts for as much as your breeding methods.

The chick from shell to maturity having no set back through improper feeding will, if bred to type, lay and perpetuate the laying instinct, while the one bred right but fed haphazardly will fail utterly in this respect.

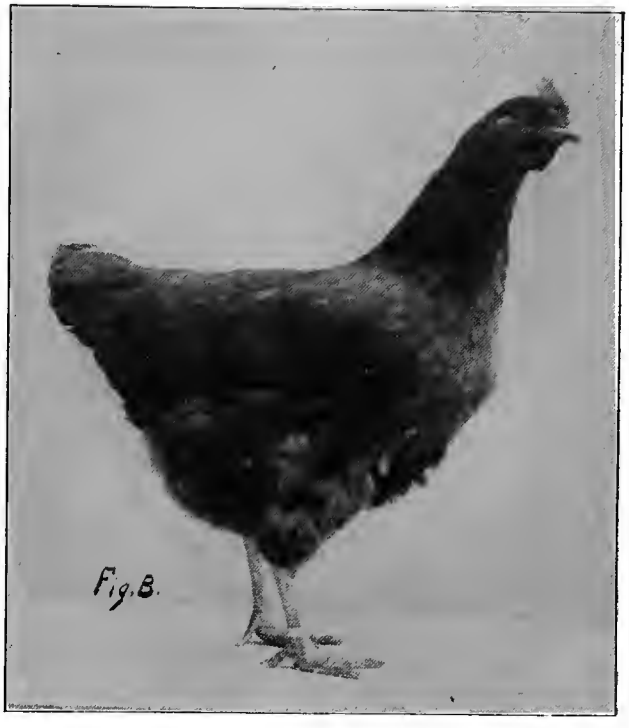
The keynote to feeding is constant variety. It is generally conceded that a variety of grains is essential, but do not stop there. It has been my experience that variety in green food and protein elements is highly important. I am not an advocate of dry feeding, preferring a moistened mash in conjunction with dry grains, the bulky portion of which I vary with alfalfa and cut clover. I also find cut clover beneficial for the litter occasionally as they eat all the heads and scratch to get them. Cabbage, mangels, turnips and occasionally potatoes and carrots all help out the variety. Vary your protein by feeding scraps, green cut bone, beef meal, bone meal and milk albumen and your results will be better than with scraps, green bone or milk albumen solely.

Housing

The essentials of a good house are light, sunshine, fresh air and roomy quarters, also simplicity and convenience. Fresh air is paramount if you wish to keep up the stamina, without which you will not keep type. Simplicity and convenience are next as aids to perfect cleanliness. The curtain or open front house best furnishes the former, also assuring dryness.

Exercise

Exercising is a prominent factor of success. Teach the birds to scratch from chick-hood to the chopping block and in time this characteristic will become inherent, until you have a flock without a lazy bone in their makeup and free from the vices of feather pulling, egg eating and day roosting.



This hen Ruby owned by Mr. Geo. L. Andrews, Freeport, L. I., has the record of having won a blue ribbon, a shape and color special and laid 200 eggs in one year—Judge Drevenstedt referred to her as "a jewel in color and type."

Provide a sunny scratch shed for them with an abundance of clean litter in which to scatter their grain feed, having a tempting head of cabbage just high enough to make them jump for it, occasionally hanging a piece of raw meat similarly. Keep a few pieces of meat from the table on hand to carry out with you when collecting the eggs and see them chase one another, when these are thrown to them.

Hatching

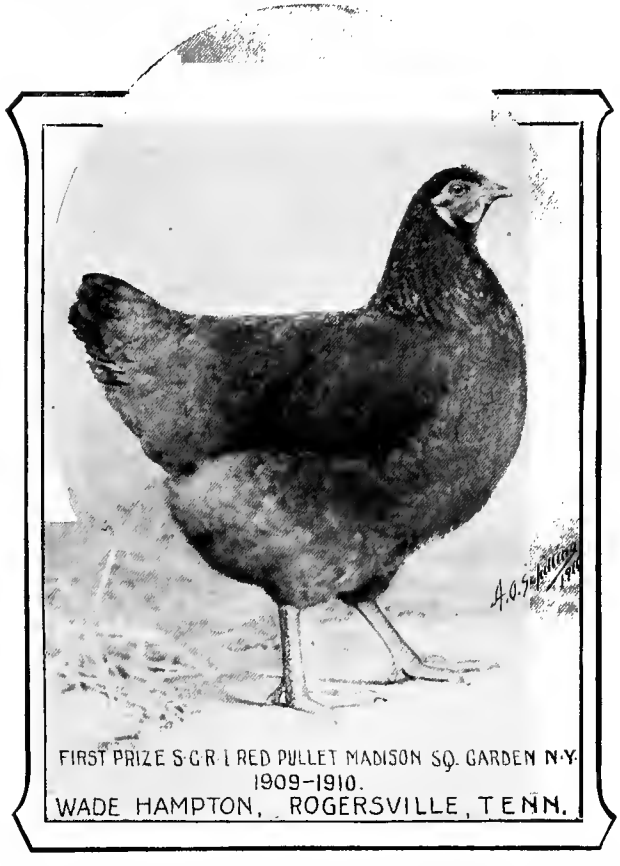
Though I have placed hatching last I consider it first in importance. Get off as many early birds as you can, as they are most apt to assume correct type, if their ancestors have been properly bred, fed and housed. The early chicks grow faster and more uniformly, maturing younger, hence can be expected to lay (in the case of Reds) before fall cold and rains, continuing through the winter and thus lay a larger number of eggs. If early and heavy layers are bred from continuously you will soon perfect a strain of chronic egg machines.

WHY RHODE ISLAND REDS ARE POPULAR

THEIR BEAUTY MAKES THEM ATTRACTIVE TO THE FANCIER—THEIR UTILITY QUALITIES ARE EXCELLENT—THRIVE IN ALL CLIMES AND UNDER NEARLY ALL CONDITIONS—MATURE QUICKLY—LAY EARLY

GEORGE L. BUELL

ABOUT fifteen years ago, after breeding two or three other breeds of fowls quite successfully, I ran across a trio of S. C. Rhode Island Reds that had been sent to a man here by his son-in-law, who at that time was connected with one of the agricultural colleges in Rhode Island. At first sight they impressed me as being about the right fowl for a general utility breed and I purchased a sitting of eggs. In one year from that time I had no other fowls on the place. I think it is needless to say that if once a man becomes a Rhode Island Red enthusiast, there is no use trying to persuade him to discard them for any other breed.



The Reds thrive under nearly all conditions and in all climes. I have shipped them to the extreme northern, southern, eastern and western parts of the United States and have the most favorable reports from all sections.

In confinement they do as well or better than either the larger of smaller breeds. I sold six hens last fall to a man here in my home town and when I came to deliver them to him I asked him if he had a run for them and he said: "No, I only have a portable pen and yard which I intend to move to different parts of the yard, as I cannot let them run at all." I said, "You had better not take them as you have so small a place, I am afraid you will not be able to do anything with them." But, his mind was made up to have them so he took the hens. I met him only yesterday (May 10th) and asked him how the chickens were getting along. He said, "The next day after I took them home they laid six eggs and have laid continuously ever since, except through moulting and I have kept them in that small portable yard and pen every day since I have had them, until two weeks ago, when I moved to a larger place and can now let them have a run." This portable yard and run was about eight feet square and the roosts were built up off the ground with the run underneath and he had only a very small back yard in which to move this portable coop; the back yard being too small for the six hens if they had had the entire run of the whole yard.

The Reds mature very quickly and I find no trouble in making them lay in from four to five months after they are hatched. From the two sittings of eggs one man hatched eighteen pullets on July fourth and every one of these pullets was laying in December. He told me that on several days in December and January every pullet laid.

Why should the Reds not be popular when you take into consideration all of their qualifications?

As eggs producers they are second to none, in fact, I do not believe there is a breed, large or small, that is their equal. As mothers you cannot find their superiors and as a table fowl they are as good as the best, with their fine grain, yellow skin and plump breasts.

For a fanciers' fowl, where will you find a handsomer one? We all have a preference for some color, but we think that the Reds with their brilliant red plumage, especially the males with their black, greenish sheen make a grand sight indeed for the fanciers eye.

What qualities can you ask for that are not found in the Reds? I predict that in five years from today the show rooms of this country will show more Reds than any other three breeds combined; and the Reds have done it themselves. It cannot be credited to the fanciers as no class of fowls ever made its appearance that "got it" from the old fanciers, as did the Reds. They won all their popularity themselves on account of their general utility qualities, until today they are at the head of the list. I have yet to hear the fancier of other breeds say that he has a better fowl than the Red; his great cry is that they do not breed true to color. For my part, I would rather have a hen with occasionally a white feather in her wing and have her lay 200 eggs in a year, than to have one with a perfect wing and lay only 150 eggs per year. Fact, is the color is not bothering us much in the last few years and will bother us less in the future.

MONEY MAKING RHODE ISLAND REDS

SOME EXCELLENT REASONS SET FORTH TO SHOW WHY THE BREED MERITS ITS WONDERFUL POPULARITY—HOW THE REDS CAN MAKE A PROFIT WITH THE LEAST POSSIBLE ATTENTION

F. W. C. ALMY

WE HAVE good cause to be enthusiastic over the Reds, and while we do not intend to say anything against any other breed, for we know there are many good and profitable breeds and varieties, yet we firmly believe that the Reds are the best all-around, general purpose fowl in the world.

We have been keeping the Reds, beginning in a small way, for nineteen years and they have kept us. Starting with no capital at all, we have gradually built up a large business. In addition to this, we have all the paraphernalia that goes to make up a successful poultry plant. This has been paid for almost altogether from the profits derived by selling market eggs alone at ordinary market prices. It is only during the last six or seven years that we have paid any attention to the fancy side of the "Red" question. We got our start solely and entirely from the sale of market eggs.

The Real Beauty of the Breed

The beauty of this breed is the ease with which the birds can be handled. With very little attention and with the roughest of usage they will, if they simply get enough to eat, lay enough eggs to show a good profit. While this profit can be increased with extra care and attention, "pampering" and "molly-coddling" are unnecessary as with so many breeds, to make them produce even a scanty number of eggs in the winter season.

Our own Reds, with the exception of our special breeding pens, are all on free range. The houses are eight by twelve feet, made of ordinary hemlock boards, not matching at all and the cracks are left open between the boards. The roofs only are shingled, no attempt being made to keep out the weather with the exception that a strip of red roofing paper is put around the inside of the house, back of the roost poles and behind the nests.

In these houses we keep 40 to 50 hens and they are allowed out of doors every day in the year. Our climate is rather moderate, the mercury seldom going below zero and it is also very free from snow, averaging not more than two or three weeks when the ground is covered with snow.

We make only one trip a day with feed, at which time, the mash and mixed hard grain are placed in a covered trough, or hopper, which is divided into two parts. Water and mangels are also distributed on this same trip. Under these conditions our birds frequently give us an egg yield of 40 per cent or better during the month of January.

Another illustration of the "bound-to-lay-under-any-conditions," quality of the Reds. When the young chicks are placed out in the colony coops early in the spring, an ordinary cracker box about 12x18 inches in dimensions, is placed in each coop and in this the old hen is confined. In spite of her cramped quarters, with scarcely room enough to turn around, she will frequently start to laying in three weeks after being confined. The only way to prevent hens laying too soon, is to let them have only cracked corn to eat, keeping all mash out of reach and giving only an occasional drink of water. We know how essential exercise is claimed to be by all writers and also other breeders; well, the above methods prove it is not necessary for the Reds.

The chicks hatched April first, if fed liberally, kept from crowding and free from lice, will, begin laying by September first and should lay well in October and November. They make fine broilers, weighing 2 to 2½ pounds in two months and they also make an A1 roasting chicken. The cockerels should average 10 pounds or more per pair at five months of age and we have no trouble in getting the very top price and even more for fancy chickens.

Another great point in favor of this breed is that the yearling hens do not get fat like many other breeds but are as good layers the second year as the first. This is a strong argument in their favor, as you have to renew only one-half your flock each year, instead of the whole flock as with some breeds.

As a fancier's fowl, as we breed them, we find them very satisfactory and there is nothing that can be more beautiful than a flock of nice pullets and cockerels, when in full feather.

It has been the commonly accepted belief that the Reds are mongrels, bred from mongrels and will breed mongrels; but this is not true, at least with us. Our best birds breed very true to both shape and color and we have no difficulty in winning some of the good prizes at the best shows, in close competition.

OLD HICKORY

A typical R. I. Red male, winner of first prize as cockerel and also as cock at Polo, Ill., 1910 and 1911. He has a fine five point comb, typical, oblong shape and is a beautiful, rich, even red color. Bred by Mr. T. J. Rountree, Nora, Ill. and now owned by Wade Hampton of Tennessee.

As another proof that the Reds are satisfactory and increasing in popularity, we have this year (1909) in spite of the high price of grains, etc., sold about 30,000 eggs for hatching up until June.

They are a grand, good breed; rugged, hardy and prolific layers. With ordinary care and attention they will yield a substantial profit, where some varieties would not pay their keep. We, therefore, say, "Success to the Reds, may they become known to every poultry keeper in these United States." To know them is to love them. They are the true mortgage-lifting, money-making breed and we can honestly recommend them to the favorable attention of every lover of poultry.

(NOTE—A visit to Mr. Almy's plant is described elsewhere in these pages and the writer vouches for the truth of his statements. Crude as his methods are, with him they have proved successful.—ED.)

AN EXCELLENT RECORD FOR THE FIRST YEAR

WHAT ONE BREEDER DID WITH RHODE ISLAND REDS IN ONE YEAR—CREDIT FOR SUCCESS IS GIVEN TO THE REDS, THE TOLMAN FRESH-AIR HOUSE, DRY MASH AND HOPPER FEEDING

D. E. HALE

WHILE corresponding with Mr. Geo. L. Buell, Lorain, Ohio, relative to Rhode Island Reds we received a letter from him in which he said: "I have a neighbor who has some R. I. Reds that are making some good egg records for the winter months." We wrote Mr. Buell to get the facts and figures. The following story, as told by Mr. Warren Gregg, is very interesting as it shows what can be done on a city lot by a busy man. Mr. Buell wrote: "Mr. Gregg is a division superintendent of the Lake Shore Electric Railway and any statement he makes is absolutely true and can be relied upon."

As that is the kind of information we try to give our readers we take pleasure in quoting Mr. Gregg's story as follows:

"About April 15th, 1908, I bought a 100-egg size incubator and brooder. I had not been keeping fowls of any kind for several years, but as I had an ideal back yard, part orchard with a nice grass sod, I thought I would try artificial hatching and brooding; also thought I would give the Rhode Island Reds a trial. I fenced off a yard 65 feet square, built a Tolman Fresh-Air house, bought 300 Rhode Island Red eggs from Mr. Geo. L. Buell and out of the three hatches I averaged 75 per cent on each hatch, raising 180 chicks from the 225 hatched. My total expense for the year was as follows:

Incubator	$18.00
Gas burner and fixtures	1.50
Brooder	15.00
300 eggs at $3.00	9.00
Fencing	13.90
Poultry House	28.00
Two extra thermometers	1.00
Feed for the year	54.68
Extras	6.40
Total	$147.48

"During the year I sold $52.50 worth of young chicks at market prices and $100.04 worth of eggs, making a total of $152.54, leaving a balance of $5.06. During the six months, from December first to June first, I kept a flock of thirty of the best pullets I could pick from the flock. Below I give you the egg record for each of the six months.

December	353 eggs
January	497 eggs
February	631 eggs
March	727 eggs
April	583 eggs
May	569 eggs
Total	3360 eggs

"Three thousand, three hundred and sixty divided by thirty gives 112 eggs, which is the average for six months and which I think is pretty good, especially for the winter months.

"These thirty pullets were housed in a Tolman Fresh-Air house open all winter. I fed a dry mash in the hopper consisting of fifty pounds of bran, twenty-five pounds of middlings, twenty-five pounds of alfalfa meal, twenty-five pounds of corn meal, twenty-five pounds of linseed meal and twenty-five pounds of beef scrap. This dry mash was kept before them in the hoppers at all times. In the morning I fed wheat in the litter, in fact all their grain was fed in a litter composed of clean oat straw; at night I fed whole corn. In the basement of my residence I sprouted oats and about noon I gave them a bunch of the sprouted oats, about ten inches square. I kept oyster shell and granulated charcoal before them at all times.

"During the whole winter I did not have one sick chicken I have not put on my list of expenses any charge for a cock on account of the fact that Mr. Buell was kind enough to lend me a good one.

"From my investment of $147.48 in one year I have taken in $152.54, had what eggs we wanted for our own use, also have one hatch of 67 two-weeks old chicks and a flock of thirty year-old hens, besides fence, building, incubator, brooder, etc. I think this is pretty good for one year.

"I wish to add that, to my mind, the Rhode Island Reds are the best fowls for confinement that I have ever kept. I have never had one fly over a five-foot fence and when let out they do not wander away. I have been converted to two things in the past year and they are—Rhode Island Reds and a Tolman Fresh-Air house."

A fine type of R. C. R. I. Red Pullet, a winner at Davenport, Ia., 1910. Owned by W. F. Volz, Cedar Rapids, Ia.

Mr. Gregg certainly made a good record for one year. When we stop to consider that in addition to paying for his little plant and equipment, also his original stock, that the family had all the eggs wanted for home use, that he had 67 chicks on hand two weeks old, all at the end of his first year and his cash account showed a credit of $5.06, it undoubtedly spells success.

There are several good points to be gleaned from Mr. Gregg's story. First; he showed that he was observing and posted up before starting. His erecting a Tolman Fresh-Air house verifies that. Second; he had studied the feeding quest· note the dry mash and of what composed, also the fact t ..v it was "hopper-fed" and before the fowls at all times; note also that Mr. Gregg sprouted oats in his basement for vegetable feed. Which all goes to prove two things, viz.; it pays to study the successful methods of others and then live up to the system installed.

The fact that Mr. Gregg kept a strict account of everything the first year gives evidence that he was handling poultry keeping as a business proposition as well as for pleasure.

We predict that Mr. Gregg will soon be selling fancy stock and eggs which will materially increase his cash returns, also his profits. All of his sales were made at market prices. Anyone who is as methodical as Mr. Gregg, in regard to the raising of poultry, is bound to succeed.

RHODE ISLAND REDS IN DIXIE LAND

THE UTILITY QUALITIES OF THE BREED ARE BEING RECOGNIZED AND IT IS RAPIDLY INCREASING IN POPULARITY

WM. L. SAUNDERS, NORTH CAROLINA

EVER since fanciers of the southern states began to pay more attention to poultry, they have made rapid strides toward the front as producers of eggs and market poultry and many of them are raising birds that can win at the largest shows. For the last half dozen years the Reds have been sweeping over this section like a tidal wave, carrying everything before them, and, like the honeysuckle, when they once take root they are there to stay, as they combine many of the best qualities of the old favorites.

A Dual Purpose Fowl Wanted

In this section, as well as in most others, what our farmers want is a general-purpose fowl; one that will furnish eggs the year 'round and also make a good market bird. As a rule, they do not care to keep two different breeds, one for egg production and the other for its meat, but want a dual-purpose breed, i. e., one that will furnish both and they have found the Rhode Island Red meets all requirements.

The Reds are fortunate in possessing the long back and bodies, and are also of sufficient width and depth to make them what is known as the egg type or the natural egg machine. Give them the proper food and enough of it and they will shell out the eggs whether in sunshine or rain.

One of my customers who replaced "the good old Dominicker hen" with a flock of Rose Comb Rhode Island Reds last year, said that it seemed like all his neighbors expected him to supply them with eggs for their Christmas cakes, that one of them who raises White Plymouth Rocks told him if he would let him have enough eggs to make his Christmas cake he would give him a sitting of White Rock eggs in the spring. He said eggs were cheap in the spring and that he did not want White Rocks anyway, that the Reds were good enough for him.

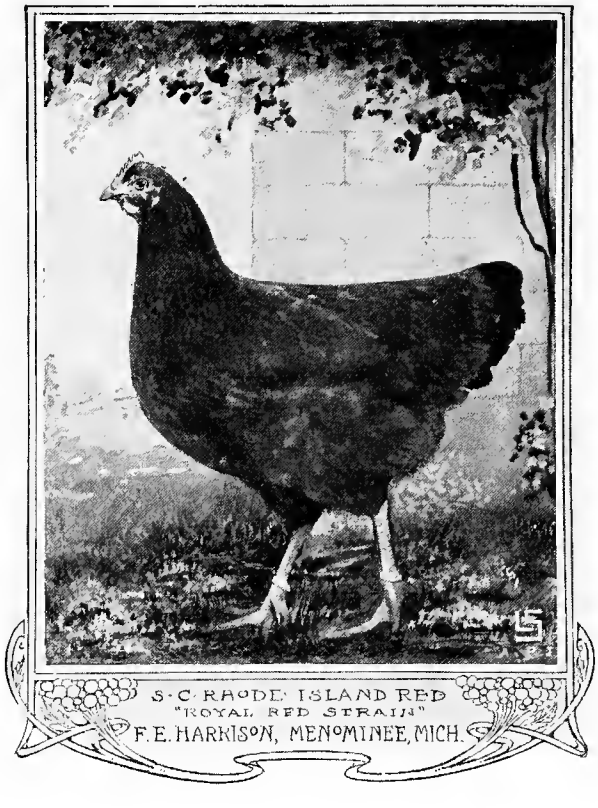
The above seems to be the general verdict wherever they are tried. I have found them to be early and persistent layers. Hens brooding chicks will usually begin to lay when their chicks are about four weeks old and still take care of them until they are old enough to be weaned.

Fine Broilers At An Early Age

The chicks grow rapidly and make fine broilers in less time than any other breed I ever tried. Recently I culled out a lot of brooder chicks that were about nine weeks old. These chicks had been fed mostly on grain with a view to making bone and muscle, as I expected to get a good many pullets for fall and winter laying. A poultry dealer gave me thirty-five cents a head for them in the yard. The culls were the cockerels that I did not think would bring three dollars or better this fall and the pullets that appeared to be slow in developing. It was no big thing, according to the accounts I see published of what a good many poultrymen are doing, or many of the estimates of what can be done, but it is better than I was ever able to do with any other breed.

Fertility of Eggs High

Another thing is their vigor. The cocks have the activity and vim of the old pit games, which were the first pure-bred fowls I ever raised. I took a nine pound yearling cock under my arm the other day to move him from my lower yard to one of the upper ones and he challenged the



head of every yard as I went by and got an answering crow from all of them, yet they are docile and gentle.

The eggs I hatched in incubators this year were over ninety per cent fertile and hatched strong chicks, chicks that lived and grew as well as those hatched and raised by hens at the same time.

I received a letter the other day from a customer who said "send me another sitting of Rose Comb Rhode Island Red eggs. I like the way your eggs hatch." That is the kind of fowls our farmers want, fowls that are good layers the year 'round, that lay eggs that are strong in fertility and will hatch strong, vigorous chicks that live and make good broilers at an early age, and hens that will bring a good price as roasters when they are no longer needed for breeding purposes.

Another class of our citizens who are largely breeding the Rhode Island Reds are professional and business men who like fresh eggs for breakfast and like to raise poultry as a recreation in their spare time. Many of this class are not only interested in the utility qualities of the Reds, but like them for their exhibition qualities as well. They like a flock of handsome, even-colored birds that they can show their friends and boast about.

I received an order from a doctor the other day who asked me to send him two yearling hens of the Roanoke type as he was the breeder of the fine bloods of his county and did not want to lower his grade. For this class of poultrymen the Reds are just the thing, as they combine the useful and beautiful. While I do not receive "over one hundred letters a day from all over the world in regard to Rhode Island Reds, in one way or another," still I get one now and then from someone in this or adjoining states who says he is raising Rhode Island Reds and saw my birds at such a show and liked their color and wanted a cockerel, pullets or eggs, which I take as evidence that a good many who first went in for Rhode Island Reds simply for their utility qualities are now turning their attention to the fancy as well.

Southern Fanciers Coming to the Front

Many of our fanciers are trying to breed Reds that will win anywhere and that many of them are succeeding will be seen by visiting the winter shows. A few years ago the Reds were not a very large class at any of our fall fairs and winter shows. Most any Red that would score ninety was good for a first or second prize. Now, Red Alley is the center of attraction at most of them and at several this last winter (1909) Red cocks won specials for the highest scoring cock in the show, all breeds competing. There were some good ones of other breeds there too, while pullets scoring ninety-one or two by a judge with a national reputation did not get an H. C., which I take as evidence that some of our fanciers are breeding them very close to the top.

Mate for Shape and Type

In mating up Reds our first consideration should be shape and type. They have long bodies, broad and deep, the typical shape of the egg-laying hen and we cannot keep up the utility qualities or the breed characteristics of the Reds without it. A red Wyandotte or a buff Rock is not a Rhode Island Red and should not be awarded a blue ribbon at any show, no matter how good a color it may have. The next consideration should be size. All of our breeding stock, both male and female, should be up to standard weight or over. A good many poultrymen claim that a bird gets its size and shape from the hen and its color from the cock, but a fancier who breeds Single Comb Rhode Island Reds tried some undersized cockerels last year with large hens and he says there is nothing in it, for when he weighed up his birds last fall from those matings they were all under weight. The best results I ever got were from large cocks of extra good shape. The color we want is red, not buff. Chestnut or chocolate is not red. I have obtained good results from birds with some smoke in undercolor, but birds that show smoke, smut or peppering in their outer color will not do to breed exhibition birds from, neither will buff or dark males with straw-colored hackles. What we want is a bright, even-colored red that will look like a bunch of Mexican sage when at a distance. I have found it a little hard to get the black markings just like the Standard requires, but by studying our birds and using a little brains when we make up our breeding pens, I believe that we, the fanciers of the southland can breed as good Reds as are to be found anywhere.

RHODE ISLAND REDS IN ENGLAND

A LETTER FROM AN ENGLISH IMPORTER TELLING OF HIS SUCCESS AND OF THE PROGRESS THEY ARE MAKING IN HIS COUNTRY—THE YELLOW SKIN AND YELLOW LEGS ARE PROVING POPULAR ABROAD

W. ROGERSMITH, ENGLAND

[*Note: The following interesting letter was received from one of our correspondents across the water in answer to our inquiry relative to the R. I. Reds in England. D. E. H.*]

THE WERGS, WOLVERHAMPTON, ENG., MAY, '09.

GENTLEMEN:

You ask for my opinion of the Rhode Island Reds in England which I shall be most pleased to give, giving in the first place my own experience in breeding them and why I commenced to keep them.

Some years ago a friend of mine while in the United States brought over a pen of birds of the old type—large, hardy fowls—the male chocolate coloured and the females, layers of large and very brown eggs. After breeding a quantity of young stock, he advertised eggs for sale and sold quite a few but as they did not breed true to colour, the demand was not great.

I purchased some eggs from him and was so pleased with the birds hatched as winter layers and table fowls that I determined to go in for them on a large scale. I sent to the United States for some eggs from one of your well known breeders. I was able to raise some chicks and among them were a few good coloured cockerels and pullets. I then sent to the same breeder for some hens which, when delivered, were more like Buff Rocks, although I paid a fair price for them. I considered I was badly treated. I have since imported some fairly good birds both single and rose comb varieties and from them have a nice lot of young stock and am pleased to say have had a most successful breeding season, while the demand for eggs has been far greater than I could supply. None of the imported birds lay such large brown eggs as my original stock. I find them AI as winter layers and also as a table fowl.

I do not believe that the people of England mind their

yellow legs and skin one bit as long as they get a bird that has plenty of juicy meat on its body, and there is no doubt but the Reds are all that is claimed for them in that respect. Birds that I have sold for eating have been praised by every one who has tried them and I feel sure that there is a great future for them in the British Isles and that they will boom themselves here as they have in your country.

I have this season exported eggs to France and Germany and my only regret is that I had no more to sell. I have a splendid lot of chickens and one or two pullets, hatched on January 25th, have actually commenced laying, although not quite four months old.

We have had a cold and a late spring but we have lost very few chicks although they have been exposed to cold easterly winds for the past six or seven weeks.

Up to the present time we have had no separate classes for Reds in our poultry shows, but there is no doubt but during the coming season we shall have opportunity of exhibiting at several places, in fact, I hope to guarantee prizes myself at one or two, and judging from the demand for eggs there will be plenty of exhibitors. Last year one of our large breeders sent some birds to Crystal Palace show which were much admired and there is no doubt but what it was a fine advertisement for the Reds.

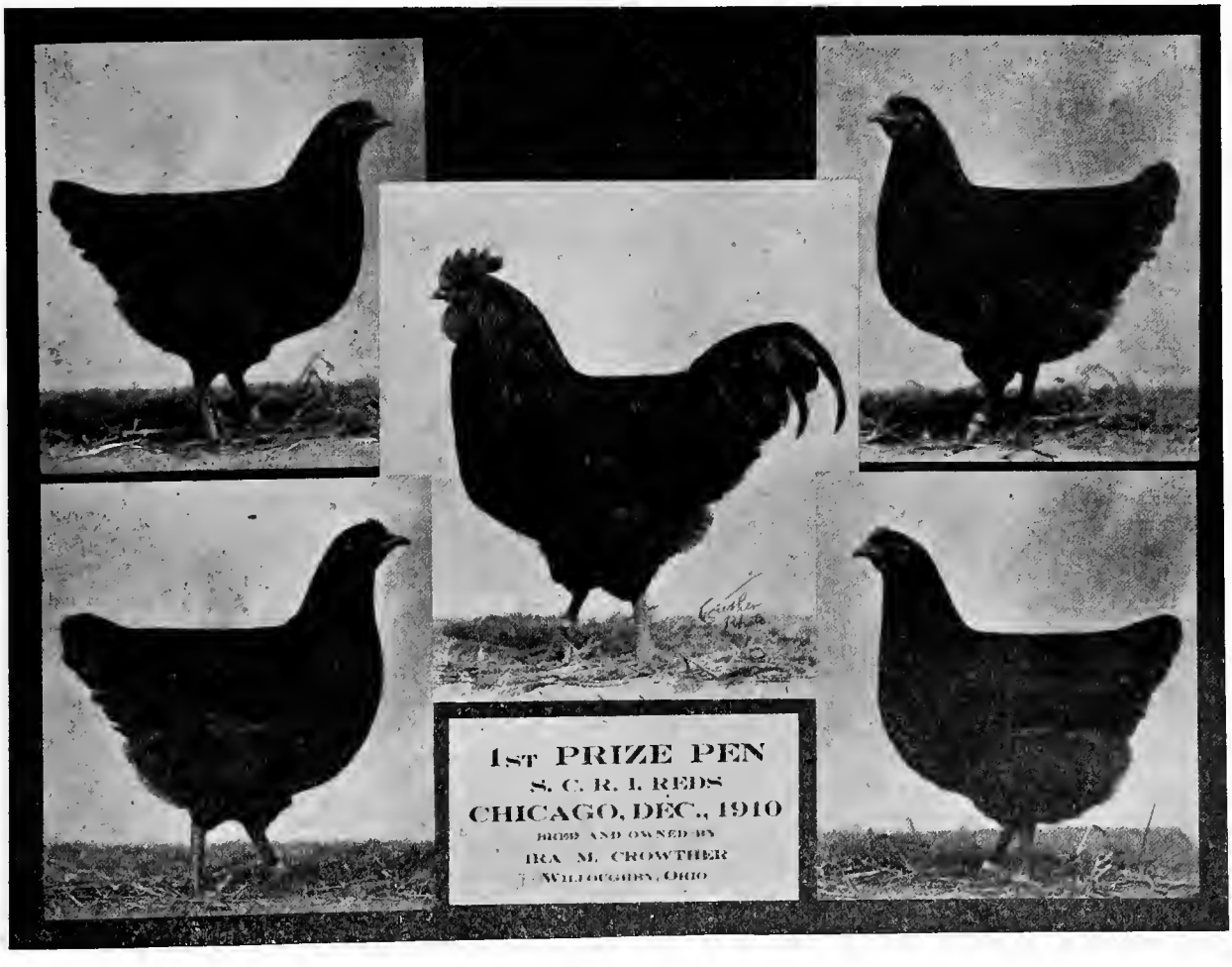
My experience has been that no matter what one pays it is a difficult matter to import really first-class birds from the United States. I joined the American club so that I might get to know some of the best breeders and have since recommended several new members. We hope to have a club of our own very soon—in fact I have already about thirty enthusiasts who have promised to join.

I hope to report to you later on how we get on at the shows. I expect there will be rather a mixed lot of Reds at first as so few people know anything about them.

Very truly yours,

W. ROGERSMITH.

[NOTE: It is quite evident from the above that the Reds have a brilliant future before them in Europe. We hope to see our English friends adopt the same Standard we have for the Reds and thus take a step toward a universal Standard. We have since received another letter from Mr. Rogersmith stating that there were several fine exhibits of Reds at several shows during the season of 1909-10. We hope that our American breeders will take note of what Mr. Rogersmith says in regard to exporting stock and send value received and then a little extra. It ought not to be difficult to give full value even if the birds are going across the water. D. E. H.]



Pullets and Cockerels in Summer Quarters in Orchard, Elm Egg Farm

CHAPTER VI

A SUCCESSFUL NEW ENGLAND EGG FARM

PRODUCING FANCY FRESH EGGS FOR HIGH CLASS MARKET—1500 HEAD OF R. I. RED LAYING STOCK—A HAPPY COMBINATION OF BEAUTY AND UTILITY—PRACTICAL METHODS OF HOUSING, FEEDING AND MANAGEMENT AS EMPLOYED AT THE ELM POULTRY AND EGG FARM

P. T. WOODS, M. D.

ELM POULTRY and Egg Farm, Mansfield, Mass., is almost ideally located. It occupies a generous acreage on both sides of the main road between Mansfield and Norton, Mass., about 30 miles from Boston. The land while nearly level, or with only a very gentle slope, is well adapted to grass and poultry, having a fine sandy loam soil of good depth, with a deep sub-soil of clean, bright, coarse sand. This farm maintains a good grass sod with little difficulty, yields generously with all the usual farm crops, and is always well drained. As evidence of the character of the soil, we were shown a field of a little over an acre which had been liberally fertilized with poultry manure and seeded down to rye to supply straw for litter material for the coming winter. The growth was remarkable and we were told that the yield, according to season, would range from 3 to 5 tons of good straw per acre, the last named quantity being the amount generally required to supply litter material for the breeding and laying houses for the entire season. The rye is allowed to ripen, is cut and cured, then as needed is thrown to the fowls to thresh. Rye is preferred to oats for this purpose. Another field is devoted entirely to strawberries and at the time of our visit, in spite of the dry season, was giving a heavy yield of exceptionally fine berries—a source of profit not to be overlooked. Strawberries in New England, if well cared for, yield about $400 to the acre. The strawberry beds are fertilized almost exclusively with poultry manure spread broadcast in the fall and winter, and the results are remarkable in heavy crops of fine luscious strawberries. A new bed is set out each year early in the season.

1500 Rhode Island Reds

Elm Poultry and Egg Farm carries an average of about 1500 head of Rose and Single Comb Rhode Island Reds, all thorough-bred stock. These rich red birds make an attractive picture against the green of the grass and foliage, which unfortunately the camera cannot reproduce. The bulk of the eggs goes to supply a large wholesale and retail grocery, and one of the leading high-class hotels in Boston, Mass, Rhode Island Reds produce a fine large brown egg, particularly well adapted for high-class table use. We understand that the farm sends regular shipments of two cases, or sixty dozen, selected, fancy, fresh brown eggs per week to the fashionable hotel where, because of their attractive appearance, they are used largely as boiled eggs or otherwise served in the shell. A flourishing private nearby trade keeps the proprietor busy in the endeavor to secure a sufficient number of brown eggs to meet the demand. He finds the Reds very prolific producers.

The prices received for the product of this plant are a little in advance of the regular market quotations for the strictly fancy high grade article, usually ranging from 3 to 5 cents per dozen above the highest quotations. These eggs are put up in substantial cases of 30 dozen each, and in smaller cases, with clean pasteboard fillers and are labeled, "Fancy Fresh Eggs Laid and Shipped the Same Day." The farm has built up a reputation for fancy fresh eggs which makes this label the equivalent of a guaranty of purity and freshness.

In addition to its fancy market egg trade, this plant also sells large numbers of eggs for hatching, making a specialty of large orders for incubator use. Thousands of small chicks are hatched annually for sale direct from the incubator at 15 cents each. These day-old chicks are hatched in six large-sized, modern, standard-make incubators which are located in a cellar under one of the poultry buildings. In season sales of breeding stock are also considerable, as this plant has been established a long time and has a reputation for high-class, thoroughbred stock producing large brown eggs. In addition to the poultry, about one thousand head of Homing

Part view of weaning section of brooder house with selected, choice Rhode Island Red pullets saved for brooders and layers. About 1200 fine birds in this lot, Elm Egg Farm.

Pigeons, white and colored, are carried for squab raising and breeding stock purposes. This plant is operated exclusively by Mr. William Harris, the proprietor, and one man as a helper. That the business is a paying one is apparent to the most casual observer visiting the plant. Everything about the place looks and breathes prosperity and it is all well managed poultry prosperity too.

At the time of our visit in June a picker was busily engaged in picking broiler-size surplus cockerels to take advantage of the high market prices as well as to get rid of undesirable male birds and give the growing pullets more room and freedom from annoyance. Some fine breeding birds are undoubtedly sacrificed by this early culling before the birds have matured sufficiently to show what is in them, but it is considered the wisest course and it pays.

Labor Saving Fixtures

We took a picture of one of the wire carrying crates filled with culled cockerels ready for killing, with a few pair of dressed broilers taken at random from the cooling bath and placed on a large rhubarb leaf on top of the crate. These broilers were then wholesaling for from $1.25 to $1.50 per pair. The picker receives five cents each for dry picking, and judging from the number he piled up while we were on the plant he was in a fair way to make a good day's pay.

The wire carrying crate shown in the illustration would prove a great convenience on any poultry farm. They are built on a light pine frame and covered with one-inch mesh hexagon poultry netting. The dimensions are about 3½ feet long by 18 inches wide and they are divided in the center by a partition of one-inch mesh poultry wire. On top near the center two pieces of 10-inch wide board serve as trap doors to give access to the interior; one of these doors is shown partly open. The remainder of the top is covered in with poultry wire. The floor is of light ⅞-inch pine, and, as will be noted, the bottom side-strip to which the wire netting is tacked is raised to leave about half an inch space between it and the floor. This gives a self-cleaning coop, as the chickens in moving about scratch the droppings out through this space on either side. Cleats at both ends afford convenient handles for carrying the crate. We noticed a dozen or more of these crates on different parts of the plant and found that they were used for moving colonies of chickens about the plant, for transferring culls to the killing house, or confining small flocks for convenience in handling and culling.

Another labor-saving device on this plant is the breaking-up coop used for broody hens, there being one located in nearly every breeding pen. The dimensions of this breaking-up coop are much the same as those of the carrying crate, but it has a slat bottom of 2-inch slats placed about 2 inches apart, and is provided with four stout legs. There is no center partition and there is but one trap door in the top. Attached to one of the side posts is a drinking can made of an ordinary tin tomato can pierced with holes and fastened with wire to the post. This breaking-up coop is shown in the accompanying illustration, together with a view of one of the laying houses and a portion of one of the flocks of breeding birds. Broody hens when found on the nest at night are immediately placed in one of these breaking-up coops where a few days' confinement cures them of their desire to sit.

The buildings used on this plant are almost entirely on the continuous house plan containing from 3 to 10 or more pens with a capacity of 25 to 30 layers to each pen. In the breeding season some selected flocks are reduced to 10 to 15 choice females mated with one male, while in other houses two or more male birds are allowed to run with larger flocks. The houses are a combination of the closed and muslin-front type, glass windows being alternated with muslin screens so that an abundance of fresh air is supplied at all times.

The yards are for the most part temporary in character, the high hexagon wire netting being hung from posts by wire nails and weighted at the bottom with heavy stones to keep the fowls confined. This manner of putting up fences makes it easy to change the size of yards and shift fencing whenever it is desired to do so.

Very few chicks are raised under hens, although many of them are hen-hatched. On the opposite side of the road from the dwelling house is located a large brooder building 32 feet wide by 100 feet long. This is heated by a hot water heater bedded in brick and cement, a bank of four 2-inch pipes being used for both flow and return under the old style regulation box brooding hovers. In this house practically all the chicks are brooded, whether hen-hatched or incubator-hatched. In the summer season the end of the building furthest from the heater is used as sleeping quarters for the growing pullets.

A good view of this weaning section of the brooder house with the upper halves of the windows open and showing part of some 1200 fine well-grown pullets is shown in the accompanying illustration. Another view of one of the long poultry buildings shows well-grown pullets and cockerels enjoying the shade.

At Elm Farm preference is given to pullets hatched in April or before May 15th and to cockerels hatched from March 15th to May 15th. As soon as the cockerels begin to annoy the pullets they are separated from them, culled carefully, and the culls sold to market as broilers or roasters. The sales of cull cockerels and pullets as broilers, fryers and roasters go a long way toward paying the cost of rearing the young stock saved for breeding and laying. The hatching season usually begins about the first of February and ends by the middle of June or the first of July, depending largely upon the demand for day-old chicks. Practically all eggs produced on this plant, except those intended for home use are sent off by express on the same day on which they are laid.

Carrying crate used on Elm Egg Farm, Mansfield, Mass., showing Rhode Island Red broilers before and after dressing.

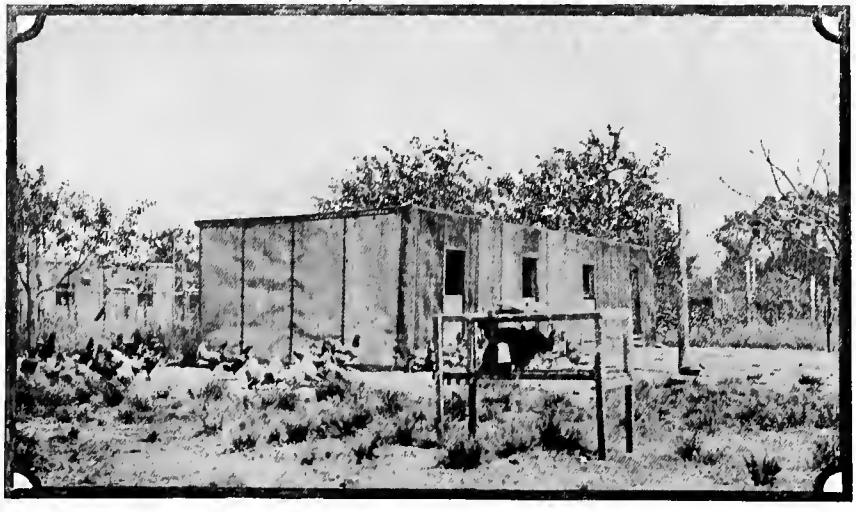
Feeding Methods

No regular system of feeding is employed at Elm Egg Farm. Only good, sound grain is purchased and the supply found at Elm Farm was the best grain we have seen this season. As a rule the young chickens are fed dry, commercial chick food being preferred after a first few feeds of stale bread crumbs and milk, squeezed dry. A well-known standard brand of commercial chick food is used almost exclusively in addition to a dry mash made of one-half "Vermont" mixed feed (a mixture of wheat bran and fancy middlings, equal parts), and one-half best beef scrap. To this is added about 10 per cent of oil meal (old process linseed meal). This is used to promote feather production and to put a gloss into the plumage. The dry mash is kept before the growing chicks all the time in addition to the regular feedings of chick food. The dry grain chick food is fed at frequent intervals until the chicks are well started, when they are put on a four-times-a-day feeding ration until they are able to take whole wheat and cracked corn; then the regular meals are given three times daily.

The breeding and laying stock is not fed a fixed or regular ration but has a variety of wholesome food, the grain depending upon the season, the variety available and the market prices. For hot weather feeding the fowls are given two meals a day of mixed grain consisting mainly of oats, wheat and a little cracked yellow corn. "Montana" heavy clipped white oats are given the preference. A quantity of these oats arrived during our stay on the plant and they proved to be of exceptional fine quality, firm, well filled and running about 40 pounds to the bushel. In addition to the regular feedings of mixed grain, beef scrap and shorts or "Vermont" mixed feed are kept before the fowls all the time in separate pans, boxes or food hoppers.

The winter or laying ration for both laying and breeding stock differs considerably from this summer method and a moist mash is used, feeding at night about one hour before roosting time five or six days a week a moist crumbly mash, all the birds will clean up in from twenty minutes to half an hour. This mash is made up as follows: Mixed feed (a mixture of bran or shorts and fancy middlings, equal parts), about 70 lbs.; yellow meal, 10 lbs.; cracked corn, 5 to 10 lbs.; whole oats, 5 to 10 lbs.; beef scrap, 10 lbs.; cut alfalfa, 10 per cent of whole. Grain is all mixed dry, alfalfa scalded before mixing with the mash. One teaspoonful of salt is allowed for each 12 quarts of mash. Often the grain is not mixed, but is added to the alfalfa and the water in which it was scalded in a large food cooker, each ingredient being added separately and the whole mash stirred until it is only moist and crumbly. The morning feed in winter consists of a mixture of whole corn, 40 lbs.; amber or macaroni wheat, 40 lbs.; Montana oats, 20 lbs.; mixed and scattered in deep, clean rye straw litter. A fair-sized handful of this mixed grain is allowed for each bird in the pen. Occasionally a little kaffir corn, barley or buckwheat is added to the mixed grain, according to price and convenience in obtaining the supply. As before stated, all rye straw used for litter is grown on the place.

The eggs intended for shipment are packed or boxed in a building adjoining the cook house. Those sold for hatching purposes are carefully wrapped in excelsior, then packed



View of one of the breeding and laying houses, Elm Egg Farm. Breaking up coop used for broody hens in the foreground.

in boxes containing pasteboard fillers, the outer rows of filler spaces being left empty. After the excelsior-wrapped eggs are placed in the fillers the whole is packed tightly with chaff, hay seed or cut hay to insure the eggs against breakage, and to provide more perfect insulation from extremes of temperature. Eggs packed in this way are certain to arrive in good condition and give the most satisfactory results when incubated.

Formerly, all watering done on this plant was accomplished by means of a large barrel water carrier on wheels by means of which the water was carted about the plant from the well. At the time of our visit, however, town water was being put in and piped to the poultry buildings.

EGG FARMING IN RHODE ISLAND

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF RHODE ISLAND REDS GROWN FOR EGG PRODUCTION IN THE LITTLE COMPTON DISTRICT—$1000 TO $1500 A YEAR FROM POULTRY AND EGGS—DESCRIPTION OF RED FEATHER FARM, TIVERTON FOUR CORNERS, A TYPICAL SUCCESSFUL RHODE ISLAND EGG PLANT—SOME OF THE APPLIANCES IN USE

P. T. WOODS, M. D.

EVERY little while we are asked "Can a man make a living in the poultry business?" and recently we received a letter from one of the R. P. J. subscribers substantially as follows:

"Editor of R. P. J.: I notice that Dr. Woods claims one man can clear from $1000 to $1500 per year in the poultry business on what he calls a one-man plant. Now I am only getting about $800 for my labor and if he will show me (and I believe there are others who will be interested) how I can make even $1000 per year above expenses, he will receive my everlasting gratitude. I have been handling chickens more or less for 15 years. I have ten acres clear of incumbrances. Eggs here reach 40 cents and drop to 15 cents; broilers reach 40 cents and drop to 12½. Soil is a sandy loam. Please have Dr. Woods tell us how the trick is done. J. W. B., New York."

The best answer to this, or at least the best way to show J. W. B., is to advise him to make a trip into the Little Compton district of Rhode Island. There he will find a number of poultry raisers who are making about $1000 a year or better profit per year out of their poultry to pay them for their own labor. In the first place we would not advise any man to attempt to make a living from poultry on a farm containing no more than ten acres. The farm is altogether too small for good results except in a small way. We should want at least three times that much land, and more if we could get it, if we were going into the poultry business to make a living from it. On so small a plant one would need to combine truck farming and small fruits with poultry keeping to do well.

These egg farmers of Rhode Island are not men who dabble with the poultry business for a few years and handle chickens "more or less." They learn the business young and make it a life work. The poultry farming in this section is a practical money-making branch of farm work and looked upon as a legitimate industry, one that pays well when seriously considered and given proper attention. This is no pastime poultry culture or playing at theoretical poultry keeping, but a business built up on sound common-sense and practical experience. It is the real thing, and that poultry keeping for profit is a success the prosperous egg plants of Little Compton district furnish ample evidence. It is always difficult to estimate statistics of private enterprises or details of income, but there is ample evidence in sight in this poultry section to show that these egg farmers are earning a profit of $1000 to $1500 per year on their "one man plants" to pay for their own labor. Everywhere in Little Compton district one can see well kept prosperous looking farms with thousands of good fowls and nearly every farm assuming the appearance of a village of colony poultry buildings. There is no better proof that egg farming pays than the fact that the greater part of the farming population of this southeastern shore of the state are actively engaged in the work. During the chicken season hundreds of thousands of Rhode Island Reds may be seen enjoying free range and housed in colony houses on these farms, all within a drive of not more than fifteen miles.

Practically all of these Little Compton district plants are one-man plants. Egg production is the chief business of these farms and the method of managing the fowls is exceedingly simple.

Red Feather Farm

A description of one of the successful egg farms of Little Compton district will, we hope, answer Mr. B.'s question

VIEWS OF A RHODE ISLAND EGG FARM

No. 1. The feed wagon at Red Feather Farm, showing Mr. Almy at work feeding the young stock their noon rations. His youngest daughter Helen is seated on a bag of grain just in front of the mash box. In feeding by wagon the fields are not always entered at the same gate, so that the fowls never know just where to expect the daily supply and crowd about that entrance.

No. 2. Birds-eye view of the ten acre field of small colony brood houses and growing chicks at breakfast time on the Almy plant, Red Feather Farm. Twenty five chicks and a mother hen are placed in each of these small buildings which are about 2½ ft. square. In cold weather the "cracker box coop" is used in these buildings. In warm weather the extra box is not needed.

No. 3. Row of shed-roofed colony houses, at Red Feather Farm, capacity, fifty layers each, size 8x12 floor, double pitch roof. Building at extreme right is the type preferred by Mr. Almy.

No. 4. Group of colony house for layers at Almy's Red Feather Farm, Tiverton Four Corners, R. I. Berry crate in front is used for breaking up broody hens.

satisfactorily for all of our readers who cannot visit this poultry growing center and see with their own eyes. Describing one farm practically describes them all, as the methods employed on the many poultry plants in this district differ in non-essential details only.

Little Compton is reached by stage from Tiverton, Rhode Island. Tiverton may be reached by trolly from Fall River or by the Newport train from Boston. Daily in the summer season and twice or three times a week in winter, when the river is not blocked with ice, it may also be reached by boat from Providence, Rhode Island. All along the Sakonnet River on the eastern and south shore of Rhode Island are located attractive farms varying in size from 50 to 120 or more acres each. These farms are long and narrow, being laid out with about 1,000 feet river frontage each.

One of the most successful of these plants and one of the most attractive farms in the Little Compton district is that of Mr. Fred W. C. Almy of Tiverton Four Corners, Rhode Island, who is located on the stage line between Tiverton and Little Compton. Mr. Almy's egg farm is known as the Red Feather Farm and contains about 120 acres. The stage road, an excellent piece of macadam cared for by the State, divides his farm into equal parts, the farm being some 60 rods wide by about a mile long. Mr. Almy breeds Rhode Island Reds almost exclusively, as do most of the farmers in his section of the country, and they all breed good ones. On the Almy plant are a number of breeding birds exclusively home-grown and native stock for many generations that have won prizes at the great Boston Show, and many others that could easily win in hot competition. Breeding fancy stock, however, is not a specialty of this farm, as it is essentially a practical market egg plant like the other farms in this locality. Little Compton poultry farmers raise fowls and eggs for what there is in them from a market standpoint, in fact poultry keeping may be said to be the most important branch of farming of this immediate section.

At the time of our visit we found between 1,500 and 1,800 head of breeding and laying stock and about 2,600 head of growing chickens. These birds were all housed on the Rhode Island colony plan, the chicks were all hen-hatched, and all of the work done on this plant is accomplished by the proprietor himself, with the assistance of a young Portuguese helper. The entire farm is not occupied by the poultry. A considerable portion of it is in mowing, while good crops of oats, corn and vegetables for winter feeding are grown. The farms in this section are all well cleared, so that when viewed from the river or from the road the country has a checkerboard appearance owing to the fencing of the fields by neat stone walls made of the flat stone common to that section of the country.

Most of the Almy farm is laid out in rectangular fields of varying dimensions of from 3 to 10 acres each. In two of these fields having an aggregate of about 8 acres were located some 50 small typical Rhode Island double pitch roof colony houses not more than 6 feet stud at the peak, with floor dimensions about 6 by 8 feet. These houses were placed in rows about 50 or 60 feet and more apart, with the houses not more than 20 or 30 feet from each other in the row. Some 25 fowls were lodged in each of these small houses. In another field containing about 6 acres were a number of

larger buildings about 8 feet wide by 12 feet long, having a 6 foot post or stud at the eaves, with the peak of the roof about 9 feet from the ground. These buildings are well shown in the illustrations which accompany this article. These larger houses quartered some 50 fowls each. Two or three cockerels or yearling males are allowed to run with each flock.

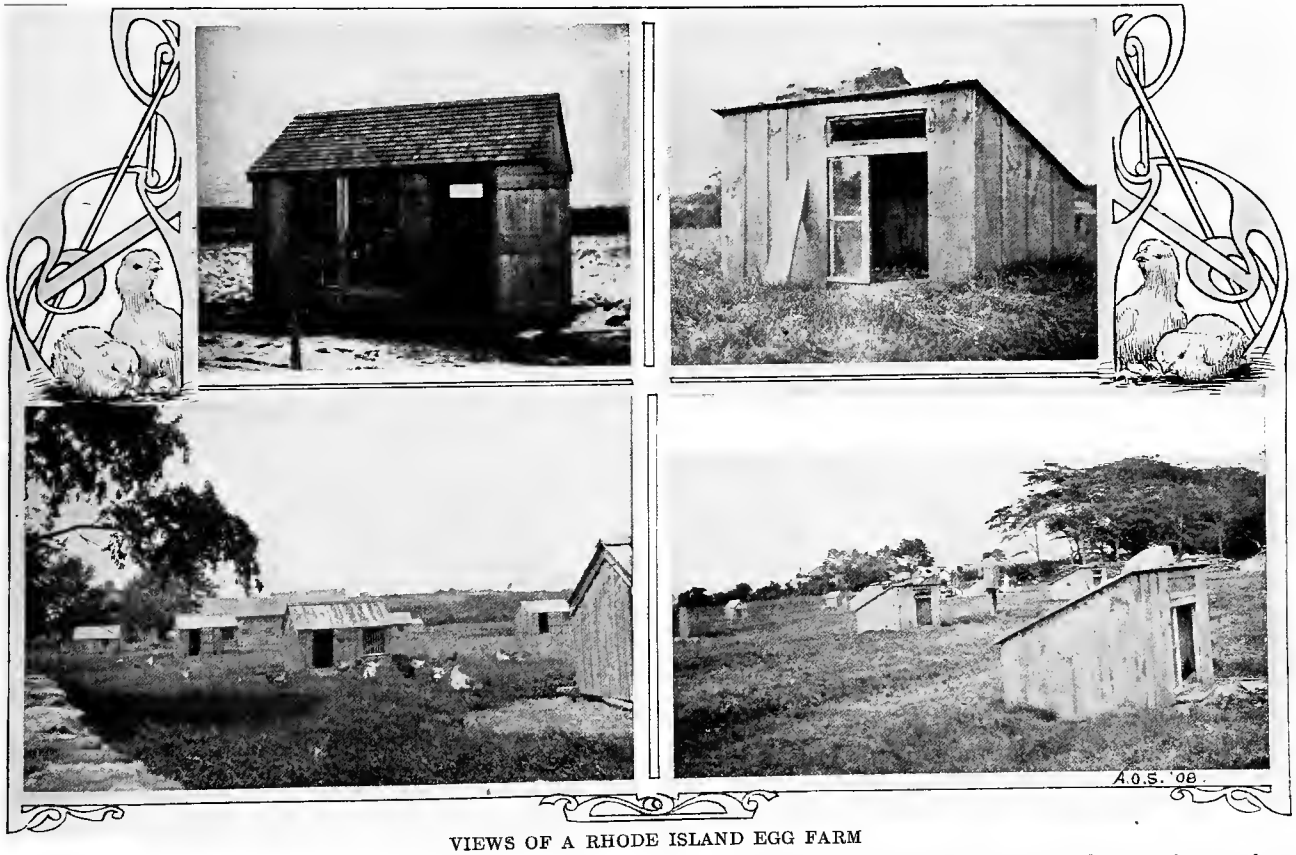
Mr. Almy told us that he preferred the larger buildings. His breeding and laying house capacity will comfortably care for 2000 to 2200 layers, and the fall season is usually begun with rather more than 2000 females in the laying houses. A few selected breeders are housed in a long, low-studded continuous house that was formerly used as a piggery. This house is so used because it happened to be on the place and was easily converted into a poultry breeding house and, while somewhat inconvenient, it answers the purpose and saves the cost of a more pretentious building. The fowls in this house are confined in small narrow runs in small selected flocks, and are the only yarded fowls on the farm. They are housed and yarded solely for the purpose of keeping a few select matings separate from the free range flocks, although many of the colony house birds appear to be quite as good and are equally well bred. All the stock fowls on the plant are thoroughbred Rhode Island Reds. This year a few White Plymouth Rock chicks were grown for experimental purposes but were nearly all sold off as broilers, fryers and small roasters.

Inexpensive Colony Houses

The poultry buildings are all very economically built, being single wall of inch boards put on up and down on both sides and roof. The cracks in the roof are battened. In some of the buildings the cracks in the sides of the buildings are also battened, but in many of them the cracks are left open. As will be noted in the illustration, the roof of this style of colony house has a sharp pitch so that it sheds water freely. They have comparatively little snow in the Little Compton district, but have a great deal of damp, foggy weather and high winds. Being so close to, and almost surrounded by salt water, snow seldom lasts long and the temperature never falls very low, in the winter season rarely going lower than 10 degrees below zero, but they do have a great deal of raw, blustering, disagreeable cold weather.

It is probable that the first cost of these typical Rhode Island colony poultry buildings would not exceed 50 or 65 cents per bird housed in them, that is, at present prices the house could probably be constructed at a cost not to exceed $20 to $25 each, and the buildings would easily last twenty to twenty-five years without repairs. Personally we believe that we should prefer the fresh-air type of colony buildings, but these Rhode Island houses are cheap to build, are the type found on all the farms of this district, and they are certainly giving entire satisfaction.

All of these buildings have stout side sills which can be made to serve as runners, so that all houses are portable and may be moved about the farm when desired. This easy moving feature of the colony houses is a very valuable one, as it permits changing the buildings about from field to field and growing some farm crop on the vacated range season after season, thus keeping the soil sweet and the stock in



VIEWS OF A RHODE ISLAND EGG FARM

No. 5. Typical Rhode Island colony breeding and laying house of the type preferred at Red Feather Farm. House is 8x12 ft. floor dimensions; 6 ft. stud or post at the eaves and about 9 ft. at the peak. House faces south, roosts are in west end. Ventilating window for summer use is shown open in rear wall of building. About 50 fowls are lodged in each of these houses.

No. 6. Near view of Red Feather Farm colony roosting coop for growing stock. This shows construction. Dimensions about 3x6 ft. Ventilating window above the large opening for window sash is closed with burlap screen in bad weather. Note large rocks on roof required to keep these coops from blowing over. These coops are exposed to heavy winds direct from the Atlantic Ocean.

No. 7. Colony laying houses at Red Feather Farm. These houses are not more than 20 or 30 feet apart in the row.

No. 8. Another view of colony roosting coops for growing stock at Red Feather Farm. There is a six acre field full of them.

good order. However, this moving of the houses is not practiced as often as might be expected, and on the Almy plant the colony buildings occupied by the laying stock have not been moved far from the site where they were originally erected for a number of years.

For the greater part of the farm the fields are fairly well drained, although one or two in wet weather might be considered a little soft. In going about the district, we saw many farms where the poultry houses were located in low, wet meadow land and had been there for twenty-five or thirty years, while the proprietors were credited with being exceptionally successful in rearing young stock and producing market eggs.

All of these houses have earth floors, being usually filled in to about a level of the sills. Most of the houses face south and have a door in the east side of the front or in the east end; the roosts are located in the west end of the building, averaging about 2½ feet off the floor.

These buildings are cleaned and the droppings removed twice a year, spring and fall, and this apparently is all the cleaning necessary. On a practical plant run for revenue only, it is neither necessary nor desirable to be always on the alert to scrape up the droppings as fast as they fall, if the fowls are in good order. On a show plant where visitors are catered to, frequent cleaning would, of course, be necessary, not for the fowls' sake but chiefly to make the quarters look more attractive.

All of the fowls have free range but seldom roam far away from their respective houses. The male birds particularly are inclined to remain close by their own quarters. There is very little fighting among the males, not nearly so much as one would naturally expect. As long as the male birds remain near their own home they are usually able to meet and drive off all other male birds that may intrude upon them, so that they may be said to fight best in their own dooryard. Salt water beach sand is used on the floors of the poultry buildings mainly for purposes of cleanliness and to avoid soiling the eggs with mud or dirt from the birds' feet. Nests are arranged in a row on a shelf along one side of the poultry building about 3 feet above the floor. Oat straw or meadow hay is used for nesting material.

When we asked about cleaning the poultry buildings Mr. Almy informed us that all of the houses were cleaned regularly in the spring and fall and that they were cleaned oftener if they needed it, though this seldom happened. Cleaning one of these buildings is an easy matter, as it is only necessary to raise the house a little, drag it a few feet from its old location and then load the accumulated droppings into a wagon to carry them to that part of the farm where they will do the most good. The floor is then filled in with sods and earth well up to the tops of the sills, with a few inches of salt water beach sand on top.

All the fuss, theory spinning and worrying of poultry keeping is eliminated on this plant. Only the sane and common-sense details of poultry keeping receive attention. All the unnecessary work is avoided, as this is a one-man plant, the kind that succeeds, and time and labor represent money and are too valuable to be wasted. Mr. Almy does the greater part of his own work even in the chicken season. This includes general farm work as well as the care and management of the poultry. The helper, or Portuguese assistant, acts chiefly as a time-saver working with the proprietor, saving steps, providing an extra pair of arms and legs where needed, carrying food, water, and doing all other work under the owner's eyes and personal direction. Compared with the work of the proprietor, the helper's duties are very light.

Mr. Almy told us that he enjoyed turning out early in the morning, and apparently getting up time at the Almy plant is usually 4 a. m. throughout the year, while bedtime comes again at 10 o'clock p. m. Breakfast comes early, about 5 o'clock, after the barn chores (looking out for two horses, seven cows and four calves) have been attended to. Six o'clock finds the proprietor and his helper at the cook house loading up the feed and water wagon ready to start the morning work of filling up the feed troughs of the laying stock with the day's supply of food. The mash food used has all been prepared the night before and allowed to remain in the cook kettle to finish cooking in its own heat. In the chicken season the morning work of feeding and watering consumes about two hours. The laying stock receive but one feed for the whole day. The young chicks and selected yarded birds are fed a second time, which comes directly after dinner, when about an hour is occupied in distributing the food, a portion of which has previously been scalded during the forenoon in the cooker.

Allowing two hours in the morning for feeding and watering, an hour and a half for scalding, mixing and distributing the noon feed, and another hour and a half in the afternoon for preparing the cooked mash for the morning feed and gathering the eggs makes a total of five hours occupied by strictly poultry work in caring for 2600 chicks and 1800 laying fowls by one man and a boy in the busy summer season. The balance of the day is consumed in general farm work.

At the time of our visit Mr. Almy found time to spend three hours of the afternoon in driving us about to show us some of the sights in the district. We returned to the farm shortly after five o'clock and between that time and six the proprietor and his helper found time to finish up the barn chores, start the morning mash cooking in the cook house, and do many other things too numerous to mention while we were taking a before-supper swim in the Sakonnet River.

Directly after supper, which was one such as only New England house-keepers know how to prepare, the heavy work of finishing the thorough mixing of the morning mash was quickly accomplished, and Mr. Almy brought out a base ball and mits eager to pass ball, until too dark to see to play, for recreation sake, and here we have the keynote of success in poultry keeping; a man with sound common sense, a fondness for work, a lover of good sport and full of vigor and vitality. How many of our readers after putting in a strenuous day at poultry and farm work, entertaining in this case three visitors (there were two besides ourself—a gentleman from St. Louis and Mr. Tom McGrew, editor of The Feather) would feel equal to and eager for a game of ball?

Foods and Feeding

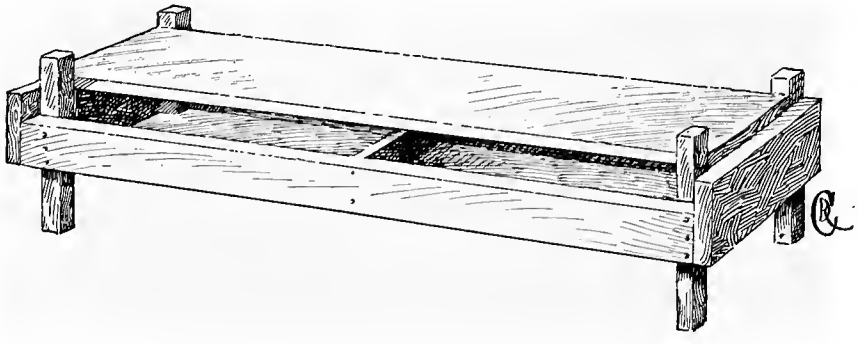
On the Almy plant all laying and breeding stock are fed once every 24 hours. The feed for the day is placed in a divided trough, mash in one end and mixed grain or cracked corn in the other. One of these troughs is shown in the illustration. The daily allowance of food so fed varies a little according to season and the appetites of the birds. The proprietor attends to this feeding personally, with the assistance of the helper, and knows by experience just how much food the birds will clean up during the day. It is very rare to have any grain left in the troughs at night, while the mash food is always cleaned up.

These feeding troughs vary in size, but on an average are 3½ feet long by 14 inches wide. Four upright posts of inch square stuff 12 inches long form the corners and legs. The bottom of the trough is made of smooth board notched at the corners to receive the posts which serve as frame as well as legs. The bottom board is nailed to the posts about 4 inches from the lower ends. On each side is nailed securely a strip 3 inches wide by 3½ feet long, giving a depth of about 2 inches to the trough. On each end is nailed a piece of

FIRST PRIZE WINNING EXHIBITION PEN, MILWAUKEE. JAN. 1911. BRED AND OWNED BY F.E. HARRISON, MENOMINEE, MICH.

board 6 inches high and 14 inches wide which serves to form end of the trough and support the removable top board. The top board or cover is of heavy inch stock 10 inches wide and about 3 feet, 10 inches long, so that it will form a movable cover that is not easily shaken or jarred out of position. The whole makes a practical feeding device which keeps the food clean and prevents waste. There is a little more than a 3-inch clear open space for the feeding fowls between the top of sides of trough and the cover or lid. This trough is clearly shown in the illustration on this page.

At the time of our visit the daily allowance for 25 fowls supplied in this trough at one feeding was a little less than 3 pints of moist mash and about 2½ quarts of dry grain mixture. The birds are fed rather liberally, as Mr. Almy does not believe that there is any profit to be had from a scant ration. We made the morning rounds with him feeding up the laying stock, and found the birds with good appetites but not crowding or rushing to meet the food wagon. For the most part they staid close by their respective houses and



RED FEATHER FARM COLONY FOOD TROUGH

The entire day's supply of food, mash on one side and dry grain on the other, is placed in this trough. The pieces required for construction are:
4 posts 1 by 1 inch, 12 inch long.
1 bottom board notched at corners for posts, 12 inches wide by 3½ feet long.
2 side boards 3 inches wide by 3½ feet long.
2 end pieces 6 inches wide by 14 inches long.
1 center partition 2 inches wide by 12 inches long.
1 top board 10 inches wide by 3 feet 10 inches long.

there was no crowding or tumbling over one another about the food trough.

The feeding on this plant is done by wagon drawn by one horse. A low, flat wagon similar to a stone bogie is used and on this the mash food is loaded in a good-sized box, the mixed grain is carried in sacks, and the water in common 8½ quart milk cans placed in a rack to prevent jarring and spilling. Some plants use a water barrel with spigot attached, but Mr. Almy finds the milk cans much more convenient and more suited to rapid work. He can feed and water the flocks in two or three houses while a man would be waiting to fill one water pail at a spigot. Wooden stoppers are used in these milk cans to prevent slopping and wasting the water. In feeding by wagon the fields are not always entered at the same gate, so that the fowls never know just where to expect the daily supply. This plan has been adopted to avoid any tendency of the fowls to bunch at one point to wait for the food supply. The plan proves particularly satisfactory in feeding young chickens and growing stock, as these younger birds are much more liable to follow the food wagon about or to lay in wait for it.

The Daily Mash

The daily mash used on this plant varies somewhat according to season. At the time of our visit, late in July, some of the fowls were beginning to molt and a heavily nitrogenous ration was being fed, with a view to stimulating the birds and keeping them in good condition during the molt. This mash is prepared in a large cast iron cook kettle capable of holding about 60 gallons, and for the morning supply about 5½ pails (capacity each about 14 quarts) of cracked corn are first placed in the cooker with about 15 per cent corn meal and thoroughly boiled, being allowed to cook until the cracked corn is quite soft. To this is added about 5½ pails of wheat bran, 2 quarts of old process linseed meal, one quart of fine ground oyster shell, about 3 pints of fine ground raw bone meal, and about 12 per cent good high protein beef scrap. These last ingredients are not added until the corn has been well cooked, and the mixing is usually finished either just before or just after supper time. The mash is thoroughly worked over in the kettle with a post hole shovel having an iron shod handle. To mix this mash to fairly firm consistency, well blended, requires the exercise of considerable muscle. After it is thoroughly mixed the kettle is covered and the mash allowed to cook in its own heat until morning feeding time. Even in severe winter weather the mash comes out of this kettle piping hot in the morning.

The mixed grain is usually a mixture of cracked corn, whole corn, wheat and oats, the mixture being about 50 per cent corn in the summer season and a considerably larger percentage of corn in cold weather. The growing chicks, after they are old enough to eat cracked corn, receive the same morning mash ration as the laying stock. In spring time when plenty of refuse fish from the fisheries at Tiverton can be had for 25 cents a barrel, it is extensively used in the mash in place of the beef scrap, almost exclusively in the case of mash used for young stock, but with laying fowls care is taken not to feed a sufficient amount of fish to taste the eggs. Fresh waste fish well cooked is considered especially desirable as a food for growing chickens. When fish is used it is thoroughly cooked by boiling before the grain is added.

The winter mash for laying stock varies according to the available grain supply, but is usually made up about as follows: Bran and ground oats or oat feed, equal parts; with sufficient coarse corn meal or fine cracked corn to make the mash dry and crumbly. From 12 to 20 per cent beef scrap is added and from 40 to 50 per cent cooked cut clover or vegetables are added. Green food or vegetables are not fed in the mash in the summer season when the fowls have free range on grass land.

Feeding the Chickens

The little chicks on this plant are started on a mixture of "chick" or fine cracked corn, cracked wheat, shorts, grit and charcoal. This is kept before them all the time and water is supplied in shallow cast iron pans that are readily cleaned and that are not easily tipped over. As soon as the youngsters are large enough to take whole grain they get the same ration as the laying hens.

In addition to the regular morning ration given at the same time the laying stock is fed, the growing chickens receive a noon feeding of scalded mash and a supply of mixed grain or of cracked corn fed in trough in a similar manner to that employed in feeding the laying stock. The noon mash is made of about equal parts bran and cracked corn, with 10 to 12 per cent beef scrap, the whole well scalded in the cooker. A sufficient supply of food is given in the troughs at this feeding to last the chicks until bedtime.

All of these growing chicks on the Almy plant are reared in large stone fenced fields some considerable distance from the farm buildings, and all food and water must be carted to them on the feed wagon. As before stated, to avoid crowding of the chicks or gathering at any fixed point, the chick growing fields are not entered at the same point each feeding time. As the chicks do not know at which side of the field the food supply is likely to put in an appearance, they are disposed to remain close by the feeding troughs rather than miss an opportunity to get the first chance at the food. Being well fed all of the time, they do not crowd much at feeding time.

There is practically no mortality from sickness on this plant, and the chief losses are from rats, hawks and other vermin. Losses from this cause are not as great as would naturally be supposed, as the country is chiefly rolling open shore land comparatively free from thick woods or timber.

Hatching the Chickens

Old-fashioned methods prevail in hatching and rearing chickens in this section. Hatching is done exclusively by hens. There are not more than four or five incubators in the whole district and these are used chiefly for finishing off the hatches, that is, the eggs are taken at pipping time and placed in the machine and allowed to hatch there, to prevent the hens from trampling the chicks. When the chicks are dry they are returned to the hen and she is allowed to brood them. We did not see but one brooder in a trip of nearly twenty miles through this thickly populated poultry growing section. Mr. Almy is the only man we know of who operates incubators and he uses three of these only for the purpose of completing the hatch as tenders to sitting hens.

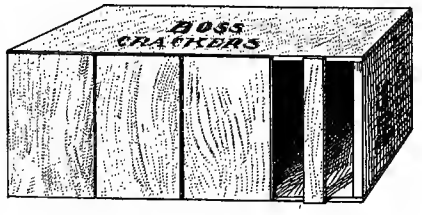
The hens are set in a building formerly used as a district school house and in a stone building at the rear of the barn. The nests are arranged around the sides of the building, four hens usually being set at one time. Upwards from 3000 chicks are so hatched each season, the hatching being done only in the spring months, March, April and May. Mr. Almy told us that last spring he set about 6000 eggs under hens, that during the season he had put out in the fields about 3000 good chicks, and at the time of our visit there were some 2600 half-grown birds occupying the chicken fields, and prior to our visit a very considerable number of young cockerels had been sold for broilers, fryers and small roasters. For raising chickens on so large a scale this is a remarkably good showing, and the mortality or loss from hawks and other vermin must have been very slight.

As evidence of the vigor of his flock and the hatchability of the eggs, Mr. Almy cited a case of having hatched from 432 fertile eggs, placed under hens, 408 strong, vigorous chickens. He said that he had repeatedly shipped sittings of 15 eggs each into Colorado and the west and had reports of 12 to 14 chickens from the sitting, and that eggs shipped into Alaska had given 7 and 8 chicks to the sitting of 15 eggs. He usually places 15 eggs under a hen and does not consider the hatch a good one unless he gets 10 or 12 chickens. Usually the hens are set in groups of four and from four to eight hens are let off of the nests at one time, though sometimes all of the hens sitting on one side of the building are allowed off at the same time. They are allowed to leave the nests once a day to feed, water and dust themselves. When the chicks are hatched about 25 are allotted to each hen mother.

All chicks are raised in small colony brood coops or houses having a floor space about 2½ feet square. These houses are practically all of the type shown in the illustration, the front being closed by a 6-light window sash. Early in the season the hen mother is placed in this coop inside of a cracker box having a slatted opening at one side, large enough for the hen to get her head out of and to admit of the chicks leaving and entering the box freely. This cracker box coop is illustrated herewith.

The hen is usually kept confined in this cracker box located in a small brood coop for from two to three weeks, the chicks being allowed the freedom of the balance of the floor space in the brood coop or colony house. After the chicks are a few days old they are allowed to run out of doors when weather permits. Food and water are placed within reach of the hen mother just outside of the slatted opening of the cracker box, but where she cannot get at them to upset or scratch it about. The cracker box coop is used only early in the season when the weather is cold. Mr. Almy told us that the mother hens seem to thrive well in this close confinement, and that in spite of the lack of exercise they keep in good condition and frequently begin laying in two to three weeks after they first receive their brood.

When the chicks are about three weeks old, according to size and weather conditions, the cracker box coop is taken out of the brood coop, and as soon as the chicks are ready to



The Rhode Island Cracker Box Coop for broody hens is used in the small colony brood houses or coops. It is entirely closed except small slatted openings in one end to permit hen to feed and give chicks free runway in and out. Used for early flocks at Red Feather Farm.

be weaned the mother hens are removed to the laying house. The chickens occupy these colony brood coops until they are ready to go to larger colony roosting coops or to the laying houses. In the warm summer season the cracker box coop is not used, the hen and chickens being confined in the colony brood coop with the window sash front allowed to remain open just far enough to admit of the chicks running in and out freely without giving the mother hen an opportunity to escape. As will be noted in the illustration, these chicken colony coops are arranged in rows a short distance apart, so that the field of them has an appearance of a tiny village with parallel streets or avenues.

As evidence of the low death rate of chicks cared for under these conditions, Mr. Almy told us of the experience of one of his neighbors, a Captain Seabury, a retired mariner, who put out 840 chicks in one field and took in 808 of them when sufficiently grown to occupy the laying houses.

A little more than half of the laying stock each year is replaced with home-grown pullets. Very few fowls older than yearlings are retained, except a few exceptionally good two-year-olds for breeding purposes; this means active culling in the late summer before the birds begin to molt heavily. All of these culled fowls are sold at the door and such hens sell for from 10 to 14 cents per pound alive.

Alongside of each of the colony laying houses is a slatted box or berry crate into which broody hens are put as soon as they are discovered on the nest at night. A few days confinement in this box serves to soon cure them of the broody habit. For the most part they get no food while so confined, but occasionally at feeding time may receive a small handful of grain if they have been confined some time.

Egg Yield and Profits

We were unable to get exact figures as to the egg yield

on this plant, as Mr. Almy has been so long in the business that he is beyond the stage of wasting time in keeping egg records. At the time of our visit the yield was running somewhere between 800 and 900 eggs a day, and from such information as we could obtain it is fair to assume that this plant is running an average of something better than a 40 to 45 per cent egg yield the year 'round. The heaviest yield comes, of course, between the first of February and the first of July. We visited this plant once before in the winter season and found that they were then obtaining about a 40 per cent egg yield. The preceding season the proprietor had sold 33,000 eggs for hatching at an average price of 5 cents each, in addition to supplying the eggs needed for hatching purposes and used on the home plant, and the regular market trade.

Red Feather Farm sells all of these market eggs direct to the consumer, supplying two large Boston hotels. Hotel Touraine takes about 9 cases of eggs a week or 270 dozen, while Young's Hotel takes 2 cases a week, or 60 dozen. These eggs are all sold at top notch Boston prices for strictly fresh eggs, shipments being made twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays. The eggs are sent by stage to Tiverton and shipped from there by train.

In the latter part of July eggs were netting this plant 33 cents per dozen, and it is safe to say that the average price of market eggs sold by this plant is 25 cents per dozen net. Fall and winter prices often go as high as 45 to 50 cents per dozen net.

Mr. Almy is exceedingly conservative and inclined to under-estimate rather than overstate the earnings of his plant. He figures that his hens earn him a net profit for his own labor of between 75 cents and $1.00 per bird per year. Taking this at the lowest figure his 2000 birds must net him a profit of $1500 per year to pay for his own labor. From the general appearance of prosperity and good living which prevail at Red Feather Farm, we should judge that this estimate is considerably under the actual income of the plant. There are a number of other poultry farmers in the same section who are doing equally well.

All eggs shipped from this plant are sent in the standard 30-dozen returnable egg cases stencilled with the owner's name and address. Where birds are kept on the colony plan as they are in this section, feeding and watering the stock birds but once a day and but two feeds a day for the young stock, one man and a boy can comfortably care for from 2000 to 3000 head of breeding and laying stock and raise from 5000 to 6000 chicks in a season, and still have time for other necessary farm work.

Driving from the Almy plant we visited the farm of Mr. Sisson on the South Shore, where we found poultry living under conditions that might well be envied by any city dweller. Along half a mile or more of farm road only a few feet from the ocean, between it and the sea, was stretched a long row of typical Rhode Island colony houses of about 50 fowls capacity each. These houses were seated on the extreme edge of an abrupt slope to a rough stony beach and were not more than 30 feet removed from high water mark. At the time we saw them the tide was about half out and the birds were down on the shore scratching in the seaweed and foraging for sea food on the rocks. Hardy, healthy, rugged, vigorous specimens were these birds, capable of producing sturdy chicks full of vitality. We envy these fowls their summer quarters and would gladly spend a couple of weeks camping out in one of those poultry houses on the shore. Quantities of clam and lobster shells in front of most of these poultry buildings testified to the fact that these fowls not only enjoy the sea breezes direct from the broad Atlantic ocean but also revel in quantities of sea food. Mr. Sisson, the proprietor of this plant, also obtains a considerable quantity of the daily waste from some of the summer hotels in his immediate vicinity.

A look into the nests in these poultry buildings disclosed a goodly number of fine, large, brown-shelled eggs, these eggs by the way having shells of remarkable thickness. Thick-shelled eggs in this section are considered no bar to satisfactory hatching and, as our guide told us, the chick that has plenty of life and vitality in it will make no difficulty in getting out of a thick-shelled egg.

Those of our readers who are skeptical concerning the profits to be made in egg farming would do well to visit this section, and would find such a visit both pleasant and profitable. Only a very small percentage of the eggs from the Little Compton district go to Boston market, the majority of them being sent to the city of Providence, Rhode Island, by steamer.

Every day in summer and twice or three times a week in winter, according to weather conditions, a fast little steam packet leaves the wharf at Sakonnet Point for the trip up the Sakonnet River through Mt. Hope Bay into the upper end of Narragansett Bay, and thence by Providence River to Providence. This steamer touches at Almy's Wharf, Tiverton Four Corners, and at Tiverton to take on and discharge freight, and the trip from Sakonnet Point to Providence makes a fitting close to a few days well spent in the egg farming section of Rhode Island.

VIRGINIA
First pullet at Pittsburg February 1909, winning color and shape specials. Owned by Oscar E. Miles.

Money-Making Poultry Information

It does not make any difference how you are conducting the poultry business—on a town lot, farm or special plant—

Our Poultry Library

contains valuable ideas for you. You are in danger of losing money if you do not know how the business of the most successful poultrymen is conducted, how the fowls are selected and fed to produce an extra supply of eggs during the winter, how their houses and appliances should be built, how the chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys are reared on a money-making plant of similar size to your own. All this valuable information, and more, is contained in the sixteen reference books of OUR POULTRY LIBRARY.

Artificial Incubating and Brooding	$ .50
Asiatics	.50
The Bantam Fowl	.50
The Chick Book	.50
Ducks and Geese	.75
Eggs and Egg Farms	.50
Egg Record and Account Book	.25
The Leghorns	1.00
The Orpingtons	.75
The Plymouth Rocks—All Varieties	1.00
Poultry Houses and Fixtures	.50
Reliable Poultry Remedies	.25
Rhode Island Reds	.75
Successful Poultry Keeping	1.00
Turkeys—Their Care and Management	.75
The Wyandottes	1.00

American Poultry Publishing Company,

Buffalo, N. Y., U. S. A.